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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

OIL PIPELINE APPROVED--The South Australian Government has given environmental approval to build an underground pipeline from the Moomba oil and gas field in the northeast of the state to the south coast near Whyalla. The cost of the project will be \$800 million--U.S.\$912 million. The state environmental minister, Mr Wotton, said the government was satisfied the pipeline would not cost lasting harm to the environment. The pipeline will end at a liquid processing plant to be established near Whyalla. [Text] [BK160633 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Nov 81]

CSO: 4220/105

ADMONITION TO U.S. CONGRESS TEAM REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Oct 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 13.—The team of top aides of the congressional Foreign Relations Committee of the USA which is here at the end of its visit to Pakistan was told at the Foreign Office today that India would not countenance any large-scale induction of sophisticated U.S. weaponry into Pakistan.

India, the aides were told, would never oppose economic aid to Pakistan. It, however, could not accept the U.S. reasoning that Pakistan needed to be armed with the most sophisticated weapons because of the so-called front-line status conferred on it by policy-makers in Washington.

The visitors were told of the intensity of feelings, cutting across party lines, which the U.S. decision to supply F-16s and other sophisticated weapons to Pakistan had aroused in this country. The feeling could only get more virulent as the supplies commenced.

They were asked if the arms were being supplied to Pakistan to eject the Russian occupation army physically from Afghanistan. Was it the U.S. view, the team was asked to explain, that Pakistan could militarily get the Russians out of Afghanistan? Was it the U.S. intention to enable the Pakistani authorities to counter internal insurgency with the help of the new weapons being made available to them? If this was not the case who was the Pakistan's likely enemy? The answer, according to Indian thinking and experience, was that Pakistan was arming itself against India. India obviously did not expect the USA to alter its decision on the question of supplying arms to Pakistan but, at the same time, felt that the record must be put straight.

The U.S. officials were told that if intention was to get the Rus-

sians out of Afghanistan talks must be started without any pre-conditions. The Pakistani song and dance over its refusal to recognize the Babrak Karmal regime did not amount to much considering that Pakistan still maintained diplomatic links with Kabul. The question of recognition therefore was of no consequence. The Indians took the

view that the Americans and the Pakistani must sit across the table with the parties concerned to find a mutually acceptable solution which,

apart from ensuring Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, also restored that country's non-aligned, independent status.

India found the rationale behind the U.S. effort to project Pakistan as a front-line State curious. Without going into the merits of the respective positions of the two Governments, the Indians are reported to have asked how the Pakistani military Government could claim a "representative" character for itself while denying the same to the Kabul regime. This was by way of a hypothetical argument to counter the view that the Afghan Government was not representative of the people of that country.

VALUE OF DUTY AGREEMENT WITH U.S. QUESTIONED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Oct 81 p 8

[Editorial: "No Big Deal"]

[Text]

The newly-appointed U. S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Harry Barnes, has understandably made much of the understanding reached between the two countries on a dispute relating to certain countervailing duties imposed by Washington on exports from this country. But the significance of this accord must not be exaggerated. The United States had imposed duties on Indian industrial fasteners and leatherware on the ground that these are heavily subsidised. India has maintained that it gives cash assistance only to the extent of offsetting indirect taxes on these items which is fully consistent with the provisions of the general agreement on tariffs and trade (GATT). Even in its latest decision, Washington has not committed itself to withdrawing the duties. It has only undertaken to examine whether the import of the products in question causes injury to its domestic industry. Under GATT procedures it is obliged to establish this in the case of commodities it considers to be unduly subsidised before it can impose countervailing duties on them. So far it had refused to apply the "domestic injury test". It had gone so far as to inform the GATT secretariat last year that it would not be able to extend to India the benefits of the code on subsidies and countervailing duties. This was an extraordinary action without a parallel in relations between a developed and a developing country. The basis on which New Delhi has now been persuaded to withdraw its complaint against the U. S. action to a special committee of GATT is not entirely clear. The United States has been aware of the weakness of its position and has not seemed particularly enthusiastic about having to defend it before the dispute settlement machinery of GATT. Though India has now withdrawn its complaint, it is not known whether the U. S. has formally retracted its last year's communication to the GATT secretariat. Unless it does so, this country cannot be sure whether the facility of the injury test now being extended to it is in the nature of a bilateral concession or a recognition of a statutory obligation.

It is still necessary for New Delhi to make it clear that it will settle for nothing less than complete adherence to the international law on tariffs and trade. This is not just a question of the U.S.A. granting to this country the benefit of an "injury test". The real issue is whether countervailing duties can be levied at all in the case of India when these are not even contemplated in respect of comparable imports from other countries. U. S. officials are on record as having said that Pakistan, for example, is treated "less stringently" because it is a "poorer trading partner". In effect this discrimination deprives India of most favoured-nation treatment, the mutual extension of which is the foremost principle of GATT.

IMPLEMENTATION OF OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT SCORED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Oct 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 11.—Thirty-four years after Independence the records of the British period in India continue to be treated as secret, reports UNI. This is a "comic" situation which has few parallels in history, says Prof. S. R. Maheshwari of the Indian Institute of Public Administration in his just released book, "Open Government in India."

Though the Official Secrets Act provides for the holding of routine official files for a period of only 30 years, this time-limit, itself of questionable validity, is never honoured. "The practice in the Government is that files are cleared for declassification not every year but every five years, and thus the 30-year secrecy rule becomes 35 years in actual practice."

The Indian Government has been following a colonial law, called the Official Secrets Act, 1923, along with other administrative provisions which seek to guard against the divulging of official information.

These laws, according to Prof. Maheshwari, induce behavioural patterns in the bureaucracy which are geared to a predominant desire to let the citizens know as little as possible about the Government's functioning. There is a total absence of communication on a very wide range of official matters.

"Exclusive knowledge is power, and many civil servants have developed a passion for secrecy so that they can manoeuvre themselves into an advantageous position in relation to others. Not only that, in today's complex, competitive

society, information is seen to carry a premium and is even sold and bought, depending on its nature and context. In the process, secrecy has emerged as a begetter of corruption", he writes.

Prof. Maheshwari says: "One also notices a marked degree of selectivity, or an absence of uniformity, in the application of the Official Secrets Act, and this, in turn, defeats the principle of equity, a true hallmark of administrative ethics. In practice, civil servants are occasionally seen to bend the law and adopt a somewhat flexible attitude."

"The sharing of information generally depends upon the personal equation between the civil servant and the recipient. Besides, it is widely believed that the Official Secrets Act is made to lie low particularly when Western scholars require information. It is also alleged that information which has economic and commercial value is often leaked out to the more unscrupulous business men."

The author says that people have developed some kind of indifference towards their right to know. For example, in 1904 the Indian members of the Imperial Legislative Assembly opposed the proposed amendments to the Official Secrets Act of 1889, and even the Press had characterized them as a move to "Russianise" the Indian administration. In sharp contrast to this, in 1967 there was little opposition to the official move to make the provisions of the secrecy legislation more rigid. The Press did not oppose it.

EGYPT'S TRAUMA PLACES INDIA IN A DILEMMA

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Oct 81 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] The assassination of President Anwar Sadat, which has thrown Arab politics into the melting pot again, poses problems for countries like India in reshaping their responses to what happens next in Egypt. Though Indo-Egyptian understanding has not been as close in recent years as in the past, India has continued to attach utmost importance to the maintenance of a reasonably good working relationship with Egypt, in spite of the vagaries of its Israeli policy which led to its complete alienation from the mainstream of Arab opinion.

It is for this reason that India has been opposing the Arab moves to expel Egypt from the non-aligned movement. The Sadat regime had appreciated the Indian stand but was disappointed that it did not go far enough in giving Egypt at least the benefit of doubt over the validity of the Camp David agreements.

The Indian criticism of the late President's policies was not directed so much at his understandable desire for conciliation with Israel to recover the lost territories as his uncalled for attempt to fraternise with it even at the risk of outraging the feelings of other Arab States.

Semi-secular

As a semi-secular State with a long established tradition of religious tolerance. Egypt continued to represent a degree of modernity in its political outlook and national aspirations, whether it was in the feckless days of King Farouk or the mercurial years of Nasser's radicalism.

The high-mindedness of Egyptian statesmen like Zaglul Pasha who spearheaded the Wafdist movement for liberation from British dominance attracted Indian nationalist leaders like Gandhiji and Nehru, who built up a fraternal relationship between the two freedom struggles to give an international dimension to them.

After the Khilafat movement in India which Gandhiji started to champion the cause of Turkish independence following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the Indian nationalist leaders extended their support to Egypt in its fight against British imperialism. As the most advanced country in the region, Egypt became an eloquent symbol of Arab resurgence and self-assertion in the wake of the first world war which led to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

Though the Arabs had suffered much more at the hands of their Turkish enslavers than western imperialism, they did not want their liberated homelands to be parcelled out into new colonies by the victorious allies who defeated Germany and broke up the 600-year old Ottoman Empire that extended from south-eastern Europe through West Asia to north-eastern Africa straddling three continents.

Self-interest

Apart from this well-meaning sentiment, India had also an enlightened self-interest in establishing closer relations with Egypt as a fulcrum for better understanding with the Arab nations. Its entire trade with the West was routed through the Suez Canal and, after the trauma of partition, India had to cultivate the more modern-minded Islamic countries like Egypt to prevent Pakistan from carrying on religious propaganda to prejudice their attitudes.

After King Farouk's deposition in 1952, the leaders of the Egyptian revolution like Neguib, Nasser and Sadat sought Nehru's cooperation in creating a better awareness of their aspirations among the Afro-Asian peoples.

The way India went about extending all-out support to the new revolutionary regime in Egypt, and later championing its cause at the United Nations during the combined British, French and Israeli attack after Nasser's nationalisation of the Suez Canal in 1956, laid the foundations for the non-aligned movement in concert with other like-minded countries like Yugoslavia at a time when Pakistan was openly justifying the Anglo-French invasion.

The policy of close friendship and cooperation with Egypt thus became one of the basic postulates of India's strategy of steering clear of cold war entanglements. The leaders of India, Egypt and Yugoslavia used to meet at least once a year to share their thoughts on the world situation and coordinate their policies in cooperation with other non-aligned and like-minded nations.

Risky gamble

But the subsequent vagaries of

Nasser's over-reaching ambition to cast himself in the role of an overlord of the whole Arab world became an embarrassment to countries like India that were whole-heartedly supporting him. In his risky gamble to project himself as an authentic spokesman of all Arab peoples, he ended up by infuriating both the conservatives and extremists among them.

The stage was thus set for some sort of moderation of Egyptian policy even before Nasser's death, if only for shedding its strident overtones. The tragedy of Egypt has been that, in attempting to restore the missing perspective, Sadat went too far in abruptly reversing the earlier policy of closer identification with other Arab States and signing a separate peace accord with Israel and later establishing diplomatic relations with it.

Meanwhile the dynamics of Islamic politics in the wake of the new-found oil wealth brought about some readjustments in India's bilateral attitudes towards them. Its refusal to back the Camp David accords inevitably led to a certain amount of disenchantment in Indo-Egyptian relations which in turn paved the way for a better understanding with other Arab States, especially the radical ones like Iraq, Syria, Libya, Algeria and even South Yemen.

The conservative Arab States like Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia, Sudan and the Gulf Sheikdoms, which were no less embarrassed by the extremes of Egyptian policy, were obliged to maintain a posture of opposition to Sadat's bid to befriend Israel, although they were not averse to the idea of reconciling to the reality of its existence on the basis of a reasonable settlement.

PLO recognition

The result was that the mantle of Nasserism passed on to Yasser Arafat, the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. The Indian recognition of the PLO last year was resented by Sadat, since he felt that India was rapidly drifting away from its policy of close friendship with Egypt to one of increasing identification with the militant elements in the Arab world which were openly gunning for him.

The importance of friendship with Egypt as a major element in India's foreign policy, thus suffered in the process, since it was no longer possible to keep up a credible distinction between the traditional friendship between the two

countries and their transient differences over the West Asian situation.

The tragic death of President Sadat will certainly lead to some rethinking in Egypt itself over the continued validity of its Israeli policy even if his successor, Mr Hosni Mubarak, wants to adhere to it. There is bound to be some variation both in its articulation and application to meet the exigencies of the new situation.

Hobson's choice

A country like India will certainly sympathise with the predicament of the new leader as he faces the Hobson's choice of forsaking what Sadat gained by attempting to dilute the commitment, or risking increased hostility from the rest of the Arab world by fully abiding by it in the name of recovering the remaining occupied territory by April next as per the agreed time-table for restoration.

Any reappraisal by India of its relationship with Egypt in these changed circumstances will have to take into account this cruel dilemma that confronts the new President while he remains buffeted by American pressure to uphold the policies of Sadat and the pulls of Pan-Arab sentiment to revert to the politics of a united front against Israeli expansion. If it is not in India's interest to see Egypt come under total American influence, it is equally detrimental to its own policy pursuits in West Asia to unwittingly contribute to the reassertion of Islamic fundamentalism in the region.

The primacy of Egypt in the Arab world gives it a pivotal geopolitical position in the so-called crescent of Islam, the phrase coined by Zbigniew Brzezinski to describe what he called the arc of crisis with Israel at its epicentre. It will be idle to pretend that the Soviet Union will let go this opportunity to dabble in Arab politics to regain at least a part of its lost influence in Egypt.

The grim prospect of this country getting engulfed in superpower rivalries again poses an equally perplexing challenge to Indian diplomacy as the recent events in the Gulf area and the Indian Ocean in the wake of Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

The instability in this highly strategic region can be contagious if no timely steps are taken by the countries concerned to restore the missing power balances and political equations in their relations.

JYOTI BASU 'TYPICAL OF MARXIST LEADERSHIP'

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Oct 81 Supplement p 1

[Article by Quark]

[Text]

THE communist leadership consists predominantly of ageing men, unlike its Congress (I) counterpart which today is more youthful than ever before. This does not, of course, mean that more revolutionaries are to be found among those whose hair is turning white from grey; nor does it necessarily mean that communism has ceased to have any attraction for youth. It is also worthy of note that the senior communist cadres, apart from possessing the experience that age implies, have the advantage of being intellectually better equipped than the spokesmen of other parties. They also include some of our best parliamentarians. Which is an indication either that the reds have recognised the inevitability of the democratic process in India or that they have a flair for debate rather than for action.

Jyoti Basu is typical of the Marxist leadership. He is 67 and has a hairline that is fast receding. He is upper caste and upper class and his manner, which is one of elegance, shows his background. In other words, he belongs to the bhadralok and he is more comfortable among the urban middle and upper classes than among the workers and the peasants. It is believed that the higher echelons of the bureaucracy have a kinship with him, for Basu himself has something of the bureaucrat in him — one does not necessarily mean the Politburocrat. His education has been on lines predictable for the affluent Bengali: schooling at Loreto, La Martiniere and St. Xavier's. He went to Presidency College to read English literature for his Honours degree. Like many other Indians belonging to the privileged classes of his generation he had his "further studies" in London where he was

called to the bar from the Middle Temple.

Even his communism he learned in London from Palme Dutt and Harry Pollitt: it is the textbook variety and not an emotional or intellectual growth from experience or contact with the masses. Basu's background is not entirely dissimilar to that of Mohan Kumaramangalam. The latter, though, was a theoretician. The chief minister of West Bengal, for all his eminence, does not have any "thesis" to his credit. He has a common-sense approach to problems and does not claim to understand the dialectics or esoteric dogmas of Marxism. After the communists abandoned the Ranadive line of 1948-50, he was made secretary of the West Bengal CPI unit, but he was inept in the party machinery and was replaced by Pramode Dasgupta. In the early sixties he emerged as a spokesman of the centrist movement and is said to have launched an attack on the left communists. But it did not take him long to grow out of this brief spell of adventurism (or was it the lack of it?) and become a leader of the CPI(M) after the split of the CPI. The power behind the Marxist throne in West Bengal today is Dasgupta who is chairman of the leftist coalition and has a better mass base than Basu.

Basu has very much mellowed since 1969 when he ruled West Bengal from behind the facade of a figurehead chief minister. Ajoy Mukherjee, and waged a war with the Centre. Today he is cautious though he remains a bitter opponent of the Congress (I). Yogendra Mukherjee, whose main job as Union minister of state for Home Affairs seems to be to needle non-Congress (I) state governments, has compiled statistics of the political murders in West Bengal dur-

ing the last few years, apparently preparing a case for takeover by the Centre. But Basu is not prepared to take the bait. He is not easily provoked, unlike his counterpart in Kerala, Mr. Nayanar, who swells with anger whenever his government comes under attack.

Relations between the Centre and West Bengal were expected to hot up on the governorship issue. The impression was created that the replacement of T. N. Singh by B. N. Pandey was part of a diabolical move to sack the left front government. It is true that, when Mr. Singh departed, there was a touching farewell and that the eyes of Jyoti Basu and his colleagues nearly misted; also Mr. Pandey was treated as an unwelcome intruder. But Basu, the elegant revolutionary, is a shrewd politician. He knows how far to go in giving expression to his anger. His comment when he was told he had been friendly with Mr. Singh: "I have to be friendly with the governor. I have to be friendly even with the governor who is sent to my state to topple my government."

Whether or not his government will be toppled, the Congress (I) is not strong enough to take over in the event of fresh elections. The leftist coalition has not performed a miracle, but it still enjoys the support of the rural masses, though there are indications that there has been a small erosion of its popularity as shown by the results of the recent civic elections. Besides, the communists are realists and there are reports they are anxious to "come to terms" with Mrs. Gandhi. One wonders if a new thesis on the lines propounded by Kumaramangalam is on the anvil. Or is Dange, the wise old deviationist, after all, right?

GDR ENVOY MEETS PRESS, SCORES U.S. ARMS POLICY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 81 p 6

[Text]

MR Heinz Birch, Ambassador of the German Democratic Republic to India, said in Calcutta on Friday that his country shared India's concern over the arms supply to Pakistan by the USA. He agreed with the Indian contention that in the past arms supplied to Pakistan had always been used against India.

The Ambassador who was addressing a Press conference, stated that the proposed delivery of highly-sophisticated F-16 planes to Pakistan by the USA posed a great danger to this region. Such supplies would lead to an escalation of arms race in the subcontinent. He said that no sophisticated weapons should be supplied to any country in the South-east Asia since this would hinder peace and economic development of the region.

Mr Birch said that the GDR, which is situated between two power blocs, was keen on detente.

The country was concerned over the proposed move by NATO to install missiles in West Germany.

He criticized some Western powers for adopting a policy of confrontation. They were interested in achieving a position of strength before starting any negotiation with the Soviet Union. Such an approach would make it imperative for the Warsaw Pact countries to take necessary measures for their defence.

On Afghanistan, the East German diplomat said that all outside interference in that country should be stopped and sovereignty and independence of Afghanistan should be respected. He stressed that it was for the Afghan Government to decide when to discontinue military assistance from the Soviet Union. He said the Soviet Union would withdraw all its armed forces from Afghanistan the moment the Afghan Government made such a

request.

Mr Birch, who referred to recent demonstrations in West Germany and other west European countries against installation of missiles and manufacture of neutron bombs, said such movements, in which young people mainly participated, were very encouraging. He observed that before and during World War II, the imperialists had succeeded in winning young people to support war. But now it was the young generation, who were against war preparations.

The East German Ambassador was asked about his country's reaction especially of the working class, to the moves of Solidarity in Poland. He said the GDR officially was against Solidarity. But many Polish workers engaged in East German factories in the border region had on occasions tried to persuade German workers to go on strike. But such attempts had not been successful.

Mr Birch, who has come to Calcutta to take part in the celebration of the 32nd anniversary of the GDR, organized by the Indo-GDR Friendship Society, said that both India and East Germany held close views on many international issues, especially regarding disarmament. He referred to the long-term economic agreement between the two countries, which would double the trade between two countries by 1985. At present the trade between the two countries had reached Rs 2 billion. He said that there were prospects for the two countries to collaborate in industrial ventures in third countries, especially in Africa. He said that in Libya, India and the GDR would jointly build a mixed fodder factory and silos.

The East German Ambassador referred to the next Five-Year Plan in his country, which sought to increase production by 30%. He said that the GDR, which faced a population shortage and encouraged a higher birth rate among its people through incentives, would introduce 45,000 robots in its industries by 1985 to tackle labour shortage. Each robot would be capable of doing three men's work, he said.

CSO: 4220/7269

REDDY SPEAKS AT BANQUET FOR GHANA PRESIDENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 11 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 10,

THE President, Mr. Sanjiva Reddy, today expressed concern over the induction of sophisticated arms in India's neighbourhood, which could upset the existing balance and start an arms race.

Speaking at a banquet hosted by him in honour of the visiting Ghana President, Dr. Hilla Limann, he said the arms induction would affect the process of confidence-building and normalisation of relations among countries of this region.

Referring to the alarming increase in military build-up in the Indian Ocean, the President regretted that "our constant calls for the elimination of great-power rivalry and military bases have failed to evoke any response".

Mr. Reddy said there was a perceptible revival of cold-war postures and the global outlook for peace had deteriorated in recent times.

He called for efforts to create the necessary political will and unity of purpose for restructuring the present inequitable world economic order, a legacy of the colonial era which made for easy and continued exploitation of poorer countries by the rich.

He said the non-aligned movement would have to intensify its struggle to achieve the new international economic order.

India and Ghana abhorred colonialism and racism in all its manifestations and believed in the brotherhood of man, and they were fighting together against the elimination of all forms of exploitation of man by man.

Recalling Dr. Kwame Nkrumah's fight for the total liberation of Africa, Mr. Reddy said if he were alive today he would have exulted in the victories Africa had already won—the 42 countries which have gained inde-

pendence since Ghana first attained "the glory" in 1957.

He would, however, also have been full of impatience and justified anger to find that Africa was not yet completely rid of colonialism and racism in South Africa, Mr. Reddy said.

Mr. Reddy said Ghana could count on India's sympathetic support in its new democratic effort at national development and progress.

UNI adds: Replying to the toast, Dr. Limann observed that the tensions between the super-powers had grown.

Global peace and security were in "jeopardy" and were being increasingly threatened by gross disparities in the international economic situation.

Stormy clouds were gathering over the issues of Namibia, South Africa and West Asia. These darkening clouds made it all the more imperative for the non-aligned nations to resist all attempts at disrupting their unity, he said.

Earlier, Dr. Limann was accorded a ceremonial welcome on his arrival from Bombay by an Indian Air Force special aircraft.

Mr. Reddy and the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, received the visiting dignitary.

Welcoming Dr. Limann, Mr. Reddy said the visit provided an excellent opportunity not only to strengthen the traditional ties of friendship but also to exchange views on matters of international and bilateral interest.

Responding to the warm welcome, Dr. Limann expressed the hope that his visit would strengthen the fruitful and cordial relations between Ghana and India.

PTI adds: Dr. Limann will have official talks with the Prime Minister on Monday. He will also visit Chandigarh and Bhakra Dam, Agra, and Bangalore before leaving for Bombay on October 14. He is scheduled to leave for Accra on October 15.

GANDHI VISIT TO JAKARTA, MANILA DEEMED SUCCESS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Oct 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 11
(UNI).

THE Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, is believed to have attained a fair measure of success in her four-fold mission to the two prominent ASEAN countries—Indonesia and the Philippines—which she visited during her recent trip to attend the Melbourne Commonwealth summit.

Although these purposes were not stated explicitly, it was clear to the press corps which accompanied Mrs. Gandhi that these were: to remove the cobwebs of misunderstanding that still persist about India's recognition of the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea to convince the ruling set-ups about India's strict nonalignment without any tilt towards either super power, to strengthen bilateral economic relations and to broaden the base of consultations and mobilise opinion among developing nations for the forthcoming Mexico summit.

Both in Jakarta and Manila the press corps was not taken into confidence about the discussions she had with President Soeharto and President Marcos without any aides.

But the two well-attended press conference in both these ASEAN capitals, the type of questions put to her and her clear exposition of India's stand on a variety of issues gave some inkling to what could have gone on at the highest level.

Kampuchea dominated Mrs. Gandhi's press conference in both these places and the questioners wished to know why India had done something which had estranged it from the ASEAN powers. Mrs. Gandhi took pains to point out that no new criteria had been followed and no departure had been made from the well-laid policy of the Indian government on the recognition of governments—namely, any set-up which exercised de facto control should earn recognition.

NO TILT

She pointed out that not only the information reaching the government from its own sources but also that in

the possession of Western governments and independent press correspondents had clearly shown that it was the Heng Samrin regime which had effective control over the territory and commanded popular support. Neither any special favour had been conferred on Heng Samrin nor any super-power (meaning the Soviet Union) had obliged that government.

She positively took the stand that the barbarous acts of the Pol Pot regime and China's support to it could not be divorced from any value judgment about Vietnamese intervention. She argued that a negotiated settlement involving the countries of the region was the only way out. Mrs. Gandhi's persuasive but firm answers went home.

The next question flowing from the first was whether India was not tilting towards the Soviet Union. In Jakarta, a questioner even asked whether India was seeking Soviet military aid to offset the imbalance caused by acquisition of sophisticated US arm by Pakistan.

Here again, Mrs. Gandhi explained that India was not seeking any arms aid from the Soviet Union. It was contrary to its accepted policy. Only purchases of equipment were being made not only from the USSR but also from other sources like the U.K., West Germany, Sweden and even the U.S. If there was a show of anger or resentment it was when she said that "all this is deliberate propaganda. I do not wish to say by whom."

She said India had won freedom after a titanic struggle against the British and she knew the price of freedom. In thinking and action, India would always be independent. Also, in many cases, India had been driven to seek Soviet help even in the economic sphere because of the U.S.A.'s refusal to come to its help.

As for mutual relations between India and the ASEAN countries, Mrs. Gandhi took the view that differences in perceptions either on Kampuchea or Afghanistan need not inhibit dialogue towards greater understanding on political matters or come in the way of meaningful cooperation in the economic sphere.

ANALYST DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, PRC

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15, 16 Oct 81

[Two-part article by Inder Malhotra: "The Regional Environment"]

[15 Oct 81 p 8]

[Excerpts] I--Worsening Scenario

As in all human affairs, so in international relations, there are tides and ebbs. Few relationships, however, have been subject to so many vicissitudes as those between this country and its two principal neighbours, China and Pakistan. The ups and downs in the Indo-Pakistani equation have been more pronounced, more frequent and more painful than even the almost overnight shattering of the Hindi-chini-bhai-bhai spirit on the bleak Himalayan heights in October 1962.

Against this backdrop the recent deterioration in India's relations with China and Pakistan is not surprising though saddening it certainly is. For it cannot but exacerbate the already inflamed and ominous environment in the region. The negative developments in the India-China relations, such as China's denial of a visa to the Arunachal assembly's speaker, are manifest and have indeed been underscored by a succession of anti-Indian polemics emanating from Beijing. But the reality of the relationship between New Delhi and Islamabad has been obscured by the euphoria and goodwill generated by Pakistan's brilliant handling of the hijacking of an Indian Airlines aircraft to Lahore by some pro-Khalistan fanatics last month.

Complaints

Pakistan cannot be blamed, however, for utilising the opportunity to make its own complaints about the tolerance shown by India to Pakistani dissidents. Islamabad has objected to the transit through Palam of the Damascus-based hijackers of the PIA aircraft and to the visits to Delhi by Mr Murtaza Bhutto, the executed Pakistani prime minister's son, and Mr Ghulam Mustafa Khar, a leader of the late Mr Bhutto's party, the PPP, who now lives in Britain. It has also taken strong exception to the presence in New Delhi of a Pakistani poetess, Miss Fahmida Riaz, who has been given an extended visa and a job at Jamia Millia.

The external affairs ministry's answer to these Pakistani complaints is that if the Pakistani dissidents, travelling on valid passports, passed through Delhi, they did so without the Indian government's knowledge whereas the leaders of

the secessionist Khalistan movement such as Dr Jagjit Singh and Mr Ganga Singh Dhillon, have been welcomed during their repeated visits to Pakistan by high Pakistani dignitaries. As for Miss Riaz, the Indian Government's attitude is said to have been influenced by repeated pleas made on her behalf (she apparently faces charges of sedition in Pakistan) by Urdu writers of this country.

But to get back to the problem of the hijackers of the Indian aircraft, the question is that if Pakistan is reluctant to return them to India, would it mete out to them the death penalty prescribed under the martial law and in fact awarded to two Pakistanis who unsuccessfully tried to hijack an aircraft? Not by a long chalk.

Altogether, therefore, an incident which has won Pakistan deserved kudos at present might end up, in the long run, by adding to the sourness of India-Pakistan relations which took a nose-dive the moment a renewed U.S.-Pakistan military relationship was established.

Nuclear Issue

This indeed is the nub of the problem. For what the subcontinent is currently suffering from is not this action or that by either Pakistan or China but the massive and malign consequences of Pakistan's decision merrily to enter the warm embrace of the U.S.-sponsored strategic consensus, ranging from Islamabad to Cairo. After the murder of President Sadat it was thought that even the Reagan administration might develop second thoughts on its policy of bolstering fragile regimes. But this has turned out to be a vain hope.

There are at least three indications that the U.S. is hell-bent on rearming Pakistan for its own purposes regardless of consequences to others. First, a three-man team of U.S. congressional staff, on a visit to Pakistan, tried to gauge the reactions of the military regime's critics to the U.S. decision to supply F-16s and other sophisticated military hardware to Pakistan and asked some awkward questions about the Pakistani nuclear programme. It was given short shrift by Pakistani rulers, confident about their cosy relationship with the White House.

Secondly, the new U.S. policy on nuclear non-proliferation, now being leaked out in Washington, suits Pakistan to the hilt. For, as reported in THE WASHINGTON POST, it aims at virtually repealing the existing law making it mandatory to cut off U.S. nuclear exports as well as military and economic assistance to nations suspected of moving towards nuclear capability. The chief U.S. spokesman on nuclear affairs, Mr James Malone, is quoted as having said that even in regard to such sanctions against nuclear proliferation as the Reagan administration would like enacted, a distinction must be made between proliferation by countries friendly to the U.S. and those which are not. [as published]

If this is not a clear encouragement to Pakistan to go ahead with its nuclear plans, what else is it? And that brings one to the third point that an almost total military and political commitment to Pakistan is being made by the U.S. at a time when it has allowed its relationship with India to deteriorate to a depth never reached before, not even in the days of the notorious Nixon-Kissinger tilt towards Pakistan during the Bangladesh war.

Opportunity

At that time, a U.S. naval task force was despatched from the South China Sea to the Bay of Bengal. Today, the U.S. has not only developed the formidable Diego Garcia naval base but also deployed in the Indian Ocean two naval task forces, each headed by an aircraft carrier. In terms of punch, these vastly exceed the total naval power of all 36 states of the Indian Ocean littoral.

Of course, there are Soviet naval ships too chugging around in the Indian Ocean. But, as responsible Russian spokesmen have pointed out, the total tonnage of the Russian naval vessels in the Indian Ocean today would not equal even two-thirds of the displacement of a single U.S. carrier!

Regrettably, the U.S. also seems to have embarked upon what looks like a deliberate campaign of disinformation about the military realities in the sub-continent. For instance, the under secretary of state for security assistance, Mr James Buckley, was talking utter baloney when he said that even after the U.S. had supplied Pakistan 40 F-16 aircraft, in terms of modern, comparable war-planes, India would still have a six-to-one superiority over Pakistan.

A lot more alarming is a Delhi-dated story simultaneously published in all major U.S. newspapers forecasting an early war between India and Pakistan "at India's initiative." Careful inquiries have revealed that the absurd report was based on a briefing by a senior U.S. embassy functionary.

In spite of all this, the Indian government's effort is to be patient and to do its utmost to prevent India's relations with the U.S. from becoming even worse than they are. For example, the Tarapur fuel issue has become something of a running sore. And yet the directive to the Indian negotiators is not to allow their frustration over it to affect Indo-U.S. relations in general. Washington has even taken the extraordinary step to impede the IMF loan to this country. Even to this New Delhi is reacting coolly.

[16 Oct 81 p 8]

[Excerpts] II--Need To Face Facts

IN the prevailing atmosphere some in this country might be tempted to believe that China's recent tantrums in its dealings with India are a product of the Sino-U.S.-Pak collusion. But this temptation ought to be resisted. There is doubtless a parallel between the Chinese strategic interests, as Beijing sees them, and those of the United States. Indeed this has been repeatedly underlined by Mr. George Bush and Gen. Alexander Haig as well as by Mr. Deng Xiaoping and Mr. Huang Hua. But parallelism is one thing and collusion quite another. Also there are some notable differences between China and the U.S., principally over Taiwan.

In any case, even in the face of the Reagan administration's unconcealed antipathy to this country, the Chinese, for good reasons of their own, have persisted in a policy of normalising relations with India. In fact, while maintaining their support to Pakistan and justifying its rearmament by the U.S., they have been advising Islamabad to improve its relations with New Delhi.

Of course, this policy has had its ups and downs. Mr. Atal-Bihari Vajpayee's visit to Beijing as foreign minister was ruined by the Chinese invasion of Vietnam while he was still on Chinese soil and utterly unaware of this climacteric event. Later, the Chinese foreign

minister, Mr. Huang Hua, abruptly postponed his visit to New Delhi evidently to protest against the Indian government's decision to recognise the Heng Samrin government in Kampuchea.

However, by the time of Mr. Huang Hua's cordial and useful talks with Mrs. Gandhi and Mr. Narasimha Rao in New Delhi, two things were clear. First, that the Chinese had learnt to live with the Indian policy on Kampuchea. And secondly, they had realised that the border question between the two countries could no longer be put on the back burner and that the pace of improvement in the overall India-China relations would be determined largely by the progress towards its settlement.

CHURLISH

It is something of a Chinese puzzle, therefore, that at this stage Beijing has given a gratuitous jolt to the process of normalisation by a series of steps of which the most offensive has been the denial of a visa to the speaker of the Arunachal Pradesh assembly, Mr. Rajkumar, who has been invited, along with other Indian parliamentarians, to Beijing for a U.N.-sponsored conference on population control.

The only explanation for this churlish step that has been offered is that the Chinese wished to underscore that Arunachal Pradesh is a disputed territory and that they do not recognise India's effective control of it. But it is inconceivable how the denial of a visa to a resident of Itanagar strengthens the Chinese case on the border or how the granting of the visa to him would have weakened it. However, the fact also remains that the discourtesy shown to the speaker of Arunachal assembly was preceded by a series of somewhat curious Chinese statements on the India-China border question.

One of these statements was an angry blast against routine replies by Mr. Narasimha Rao to parliamentary questions on the Indian territory under Chinese occupation. Such questions have been asked in every parliamentary session since the India-China dialogue was resumed and have been answered in exactly the same terms as used by the Indian foreign minister in early September. And yet more than a fortnight later, the Chinese reacted sharply to what they had previously taken with perfect equanimity.

Add to this the petulance that the Chinese displayed when an enterprising reporter brought to light furtive and temporary Chinese intrusions into certain areas of Ladakh and it becomes clear that something about the border question has begun to bother Beijing. Maybe, China is discovering that its earlier hopes of selling to the Indian public Mr. Deng's package deal on the border are not tenable. Maybe, the India-China border question has somehow got enmeshed in the debates and disputes within the Chinese leadership. But whatever the reason, the Chinese have not improved the atmosphere for the official-level talks on the border issue that are due to take place soon.

After Mrs. Gandhi's criticism

of the Chinese policy on Kampuchea just before leaving for Jakarta, it was perhaps inevitable that Beijing would react. Indeed, the prime minister herself found it necessary, during her travels in Fiji, to explain that her interviewer had failed to convey the exact import of her remarks. Even so Beijing's tone in repudiating her statement was unduly sharp.

UNLIKELY

All this has put in a tight spot all those in this country who have been advocating a settlement with China on whatever terms Beijing is prepared to offer. It has also encouraged those Indians who, largely because of their love for Moscow, have unfortunately been opposing Sino-Indian rapprochement. But, for this state of affairs, China cannot blame anyone except itself.

The damage done to Indo-Pakistan relations by the resumed U.S.-Pak military relationship and the consequent importation into the sub-continent of big power rivalries and conflicts is grim enough. Rather than try to mitigate this situation, the Pakistanis have chosen to aggravate it by not only flogging yet again the dead horse of the Kashmir issue but actually raising the ante on this question.

The Simla agreement had laid down two fundamental and far-reaching principles to which both India and Pakistan committed themselves solemnly. First, that in all their dealings, including over Kashmir, the two countries would act on the basis of strict bilateralism and think of any other means only if both sides were agreed on it.

Secondly, both sides undertook to first convert the cease-fire line in Kashmir into the line of control and then to abjure all attempts to violate or change this line by force or threat of use of force or subversion.

The implication of the second commitment was clear—that the two sides had decided eventually to convert the line of control into a permanent border (with mutually acceptable changes, of course) and thus get rid of the Kashmir issue.

Indeed, this is what Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee meant when, as foreign minister, he "accused" Mrs. Gandhi of entering to a "secret-deal" with the late Mr. Bhutto at Simla. Several years earlier, Mr. Bhutto's critics, including Khun Wali Khan, bitterly criticised him

for his attempt to absorb "Azad Kashmir" into Pakistan as a sixth province. This, they said, would be a prelude to the settlement of the Kashmir question along the existing line of division.

FURTHER

In the event, Mr. Bhutto never lived up to his promise. But, to his credit, he did two things. First, whenever he spoke publicly about Kashmir — and he did so frequently—he sent a private message to Mrs. Gandhi requesting her to bear with him because he faced many political difficulties.

Secondly, he saw to it that the Pakistani delegation did not raise the Kashmir issue at the U.N. general assembly. But as soon as he was overthrown, the military regime of Gen. Zia started raising the Kashmir issue at the U.N. general assembly and at other international gatherings. Indeed at both the U.N. and the Islamic summit in 1980, Gen. Zia personally equated Kashmir with Palestine and understandably invited a sharp retort from New Delhi.

In 1977 and 1978, however, the Janata was in power in this country and rather bemused by its own concept of good-neighbourliness. It prevented the Indian delegation from even exercising its right of reply when Mr. Agha Shahi raked up the Kashmir issue at the U.N. general assembly during those days. Mr. Charan Singh, though only a caretaker prime minister, reversed the Janata's directive.

During this year's exchanges over Kashmir at the U.N. Pakistan has gone one step further than even before. After Mr. Agha Shahi had spoken on Kashmir, Mr. N. Krishnan, India's permanent representative at the U.N., replied to him whereupon Mr. Bhatti of Pakistan was allowed a brief say. This, as in previous years, should normally have been the end of the matter. But, no, the Pakistanis had yet another trick up their sleeves. They asked Prof. Chuah-tai, their delegate to the committee on social, humanitarian and cultural affairs, to take up the Kashmir question.

There is no dearth of Pakistan's apologists in this country who would want this matter to be dismissed as trivial. But it is not. The unpleasant fact must be faced that the unremitting Pakistani attempt to keep the Kashmir issue alive, by hook or by crook, is not an innocent exercise, especially in today's strategic environment.

DELEGATE REPORTS ON VISIT TO ASEAN COUNTRIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Oct 81 p 22

[Text] New Delhi, October 14: Several Association of South-East Asian Nations are keen to develop closer economic relations with India. But India must acquire "an export culture" to be able to promote its exports.

This is the impression of an Indian delegation after visits to Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Malaysia. The delegation was led by Mr Satya Paul, president of the Federation of Engineering Industries of India.

Mr Paul told newsmen yesterday that the delegation had very useful discussions with senior ministers, government officials and representatives of trade and industry in these countries.

The governments as well as the business communities there were very keen to develop closer economic relations with India. Indian goods, though not very popular in the ASEAN region, were acceptable for quality.

Mr Paul said Indian exports faced stiff competition in the region from Japan, Korea and Taiwan whose brand names were very popular. Their goods compared well in and price and delivery schedules and were far better than in the case of Indian exports. Japan, a traditional exporter, had a large share of the ASEAN market.

Price, delivery and shipping were the main constraints facing Indian exports. Indian engineering goods, which were cheap till a couple of years ago, were now highly priced. Delivery schedules were not adhered to and shipping facilities were inadequate. As a result, Indian exports were losing to exports from Korea and Taiwan.

Mr Paul felt there was good scope for setting up joint ventures in these countries. Indian technology was considered most suitable and easy to adopt.

The delegation will submit a report on its visit to the government in the next two weeks.

CSO: 4220/7255

INDIA, GHANA SIGN 3-YEAR TRADE AGREEMENT

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Oct 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct 13

Diamonds have been included among the items for import from Ghana to India in the three-year trade agreement signed here yesterday by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, Union Commerce Minister, and Mr Vincent Bula, Trade Minister of Ghana.

The agreement provides for the most-favoured-nation treatment to exports and imports from either country and in all other matters relating to bilateral trade.

The list of items for import from Ghana includes gold, cocoa, beans and products, railway sleepers, timber products, knocked-down furniture, coffee and pineapples (fresh and canned).

The items for export from India include tea, spices, oilseeds, tobacco, rice, marine products, cotton piecegoods, handloom and mill-made silk/art silk and woollen fabrics, raw jute/jute manufactures, agricultural machinery and equipment, transport vehicles and feature films.

Joint committees to be set up: A joint committee consisting of representatives of both the countries will be set up to facilitate the implementation of the agreement.

The committee will, inter alia, keep under review the implementation of the provisions of the trade agreement, exchange information on regulations pertaining to trade and industry and examine measures to solve problems that may arise in implementing the agreement.

The committee will also consider proposals made by either Government for further expanding and diversifying trade between the two countries and identify appropriate areas of industrial co-operation, particularly those which offer prospects for developing mutually beneficial commercial exchanges.

For promotion of trade, both the countries have agreed to grant reasonable facilities to hold trade fairs and exhibitions and exempt from customs duty goods meant for exhibitions provided these are not sold or otherwise disposed of.

The agreement also stipulates that goods exchanged between the two countries should not be re-exported to a third country except with the prior approval.

It has also been agreed that India and Ghana will accord the most-favoured-nation treatment to each other's merchant vessels sailing under their flags in respect of all matters relating to navigation, access to the ports open to foreign trade and use of ports and harbour facilities.

Rs. 5 crore credit: India will also provide credit of Rs. 5 crore to Ghana.

The loan covers largely the financing of purchases by Ghana from India of equipment for rural electrification and water supplies.

Exploitation of oil: The agreement on economic, scientific and technical cooperation provides for cooperation in exploring and exploiting oil, natural gas and other mineral resources.

It envisages exchange of visits of experts and officials of the two governments in economic, scientific and technical fields, and cooperation in setting up industries, including small-scale ones and in developing infrastructure, trade, agriculture, fisheries and allied fields.

India has agreed to promote advanced training to experts, scholars, and scientists and other high-level administrative personnel of Ghana.

PTI reports.

Art and culture, education, sports, public health and mass media are covered in the new cultural agreement.

DETAILS OF CULTURAL PACT WITH GHANA REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 13--India and Ghana signed a cultural agreement, the first of its kind, on the occasion of the visit of Ghana's President Mr Hilla Limann to India.

The agreement, details of which were released today, was signed by the Minister for Commerce, Steel and Mines, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, in the absence of the Minister for Education and Social Welfare, and the visiting Ghanaian Chineduah.

According to the agreement, there will be cooperation in the fields of art and culture, education (including academic activity in the fields of science and technology), sports, public health and the media. It calls for reciprocal visits by professors and experts, representatives of educational, literary, scientific, technical artistic, sports and journalists' associations, grant of scholarships by each country to students and scientific personnel, exchange of artists, dance and music ensembles, exchange of art and other exhibitions, exchange of film, documentaries and radio and television programmes, participation in international film festivals and visits of sports teams.

The agreement provides for the signing of a protocol for the evaluation and recognition of educational certificates and degrees awarded in either country.

The agreement also provides for the setting up of a joint committee of the two Governments to review periodically the working of the agreement and recommend specific items of interest in the fields envisaged in the agreement.

The agreement will come into force from the date of exchange of instruments of ratification by both sides.

PTI adds: India will give Ghana Rs 5 crores in credit and the two will take steps to strengthen cooperation in a wide range of trade, economic scientific and cultural fields.

They will extend "the most favoured nation" treatment to exports and imports from either country under a trade pact, while another agreement covering economic, scientific and technical fields envisages cooperation in the establishment of industries and joint ventures and in the development of infrastructure. The credit will enable Ghana to import Indian manufactured goods.

RAO TALKS TO PRESS ON RETURN FROM RANGOON

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao on Tuesday described the Pakistan offer of a no-war pact to India as "curious" and said that the Union Government would have to take into account all aspects of the question before taking a decision on the offer. He was not sure whether the offer had been made with an eye on the U.S. Congressional hearings on arms supply to Pakistan or was just a pure coincidence.

The External Affairs Minister described the offer as interesting because Pakistan had rejected one by India. What motive had suddenly prompted that country to come up with the proposal would have to be studied. Mr Rao, however, said that unlike Pakistan, India would not reject the offer outright but would study all its implications before making a decision. He expressed his surprise at the "off-handish" manner in which the offer had been made to India. "When you make an offer you first officially inform the Government concerned. You don't convey it through the Press as the Pakistanis have done," Mr Rao remarked.

The External Affairs Minister said in an interview at the Calcutta airport on his way to Delhi from Rangoon that his trip to Malaysia and Burma had been "extremely fruitful," considering the interests these countries had shown in joint ventures with India. The leaders had told him clearly that they found Indian economic development more relevant to the conditions obtaining in their countries. In fact, they had said that the economies of their countries were complementary to that of India. Both were eagerly following India's achievements in the small-scale industries' sector.

"The real achievement of my trip is that the two countries expressed a desire to have our know-how in the machine tools sector. The Malaysians will send a high-powered delegation to the Delhi industries fair next month to ascertain what they need from India in the small-scale sector. The leaders have told me that they could not absorb the technology offered to them by the advanced countries. They find the Indian technology and experience more relevant," Mr Rao said.

He pointed out that there were more than 40 joint ventures in Malaysia and most of them were doing well. In Burma 16 of the 20 Indian pilot projects in the industrial estate had become viable. An Indian trade delegation would be visiting Rangoon next week to expand trade ties.

The minister said that India's stand on Kampuchea was based on an objective assessment of the situation. He said that the perceptions of India and the

ASEAN countries on Kampuchea were bound to be different. "Some countries see Russians behind every bush which is not a realistic way of viewing things," Mr Rao added.

He said that the Union Home Ministry would have to keep tag on Pakistanis and Bangladeshis coming to India with travel documents. The machinery for detecting those who overstayed in India would have to be made more effective. He had been assured by the Bangladesh Foreign Minister, Mr Shamsul Haque, both in New York and Melbourne, that Bangladesh would soon make arrangements for the repatriation of Bangladeshi tribals from Tripura. In fact he had been told of Bangladesh's anxiety over the influx of tribals into Tripura.

Mr Rao said that the assassination of President Sadat would have repercussions on developments in West Asia. But he felt that it was too early to predict what kind of development would overtake that region.

Mr Rao left for Delhi in the evening.

CSO: 4220/7250

U.S. PRESENTATION OF GRIFFIN CASE SCORED

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Oct 81 p 6

[Article by N. Ram: "Griffin Affair: U.S. Charge Against USSR"]

[Text]

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11

The US State Department has pulled out of its non-diplomatic hat (affaire Griffin — as a classic case 'on which the Soviets did a number, to use vernacular English'.

This appears to be part of a complicated political process of suggesting now that India is tilting towards the Soviet Union, then, that the United States doesn't really believe this, and returning repeatedly to the original theme.

The other day the Pentagon, in an official release on "Soviet military power", replayed old lines about the Indo-Soviet friendship treaty serving as preparation for the "invasion" of Pakistan in 1971, and claimed that India had "a significant presence" of Soviet military advisors.

Soviet "active measures"

The charge against India's handling of the Griffin episode has come this time as part of an official State Department document on "Soviet 'active measures' — forgery, disinformation, political operations". The four-page document, released on Friday, deals particularly with "press manipulation" as a category of "active measures" and techniques. It singles out "Blitz" in a characterisation that would probably be defamatory if published in India.

The broad range of Soviet "active measures" worldwide are said to include "written or spoken disinformation efforts to control media in foreign countries, use of communist parties and front organisations, clandestine radio broadcasting, blackmail, personal and economic and political influence operations."

The goal of the effort is, of course, "to discredit and weaken the United States and other nations." The "specific cases" are supposed to include "The Soviet anti-theatre nuclear force (TNF) campaign in Europe, the Soviet anti-neutron bomb campaign, Soviet activities in support of the leftists in El Salvador, the Soviet campaign against the U.S.-Egypt relationship and the Camp David process" (The so-called case study relating to El Salvador actually credits the work of "influencing public opinion throughout Latin America and in Western Europe" with "some success").

It is within this context that the Griffin affair is given a prominent place.

In a background briefing for the benefit of the Foreign Press corps in Washington, a State Department official initially presented the episode in sweeping and indignant terms implying the "manipulation" not merely of the Indian press, but also of political opinion and the Government. Then, under questioning on the facts of the case, he backed off and maintained that he was dealing solely with the conduct of "Blitz", the well-known Indian news weekly.

Soviet "disinformation"

In fact, the State Department official used the controversy and dispute over the proposed New Delhi assignment of Mr. George B. Griffin — "the American Foreign Service Officer" — as an illustration of "how it is possible to manipulate the press." The details he strung together were clearly meant to suggest that the charges against Mr. Griffin were exclusively the work of Soviet "disinformation" — "bouncing

ping-pong, back and forth" among (pro-Soviet) Indian, Soviet and Afghan publications after first being "pulled out of the air."

As one who knew Mr. Griffin "for about 20 years," he denied categorically that he was a CIA operative and fastened on a single headline to make the sweeping point that "you've got a straight pack of lies. The sort of thing that gets picked up here, played up here, picked up over there, replayed somewhere else, etc., etc."

The State Department official was asked if it was not disingenuous and misleading to suggest that the wider Indian treatment of Mr. Griffin's background, his role in the Bangladesh liberation events, as well as his Afghan stint could be equated with the presentation by one publication — and, in fact, mainly with one sensational headline.

He was also asked if the State Department was not carefully shutting out from its presentation of the facts of the case the reference made to Mr. Griffin in the research of an American journalist and scholar, Mr. Lawrence Lifschultz, as well as in other published material on the Bangladesh liberation events. The characterisation of Mr. Griffin as an intelligence operative in a publication in the German Democratic Republic as early as 1968, before anyone could know he would play the role he did in the Bangladesh events, and the details provided in the whole range of the Indian press.

It was at this point that the State Department official seemed to back away from the original sweep of his denunciation and assertions.

DETAILS OF PRC VISA DENIAL INCIDENT TOLD

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Oct 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 15.

THE Chinese have relented on the issue of granting visa to Mr. T. L. Rajkumar, Speaker of the Arunachal Assembly, who is a member of the Indian parliamentary delegation to a population conference to be held in Beijing from October 27.

The Chinese have now decided to give visas to all members of the Indian delegation. Earlier, they had refused to give a visa to Mr. Rajkumar "on account of the boundary dispute between India and China in the region bordering Arunachal."

The Chinese have now agreed to provide identical visas to all members of the delegation. The visa will be given as a separate document and not in the form of an endorsement on the passport of the Indian delegates. It is not unusual diplomatic practice.

The Indian delegation led by Mr. Sant Paul Mittal, had decided to boycott the conference unless the entire team was given visas. The decision was conveyed to the Chinese and to the U.N. Fund for Population Activities, which is sponsoring the conference.

The earlier Chinese decision to deny visa to Mr. Rajkumar had introduced a jarring note in bilateral relations at a time when an Indian Official team is preparing for talks in Beijing next month to follow up the Chinese foreign minister, Mr. Huang Hua's visit to New Delhi in June last.

The earlier Chinese decision came as a surprise since Mr. Huang himself had desisted from playing up

the border dispute and had gone as far as suggesting that such contentious issues should be kept aside while trying to evolve some political understanding.

The fact that the Chinese made over granting the visa to Mr. Rajkumar only highlighted the border dispute.

In any case, the Chinese reaction to Mr. Rajkumar's selection was uncalled for since the government of India had no hand in the choice of the delegates of the parliamentary association.

NO DISCRIMINATION

The Indian delegation which reacted spontaneously insisted that it would not tolerate any discrimination against any of its members.

Besides India's cool but firm reaction, the pressure from the U.N. body, which supports the family planning programme in China in a big way, induced China to withdraw its objection to granting a visa to Mr. Rajkumar.

India did not overreact to this storm in the diplomatic tea cup which has blown over. Before drawing any conclusions about the prospects of improving bilateral relations, India would like to watch the Chinese attitude for some time.

Prior to the official level talks next month, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhao Ziyang, will be meeting in Cancun. The proposed meeting attains significance since the request for the meeting came from the Chinese side.

CSO: 4220/7261

WRITER CONCERNED OVER FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRECY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 81 p 8

[Commentary by S. Sahay: "A Close Look: India's Image Abroad"]

[Text]

THE helplessness of the Press (need one mention the Government-controlled radio and television?) in covering the country's foreign relations is almost total. The External Affairs Ministry is one department in which the Imperial traditions still continue and the hot polloi are sedulously kept out of higher secret, knowledge. The winds of change may have effected, even if partly, other bureaucrats, but not our diplomats.

News is what the External Affairs Ministry spokesman says it is. And we are reminded again and again that history is made every time two Heads of State or Foreign Ministers meet, occasionally even when two Foreign Secretaries do. Journalists are necessary members of the Prime Minister's or the Foreign Minister's entourage—not so much because they may be able to tell readers back home about the country being visited or about the actual talks held (in the rush of things they can hardly go beyond the briefings by the official team, in particular the home team)—but because the importance the Prime Minister or the Foreign Minister attaches to a country has come to be judged not only by the strength of the official team but by the number of peripheral persons such as journalists. Their overall position is no better than that of the pundits and barbers forming part of the retinue of the travelling Maharajas of yore. This writer is personally aware of the Government of India officials' concern to match the number of journalists who may be accompanying a visiting Indian dignitary with the number of journalists brought to this country by a visiting dignitary.

SECRECY

In retaining secrecy or circulating feelers, no myth comes more handy to our officials than "national interest". And once again, "national interest" is what our External Affairs men say it is. Was it at all in the national interest that the Americans should have been allowed to plant a nuclear device, later reported to have been lost, in the Himalayas? Could the citizen, including a journalist, have a different perception of the national interest? Perhaps he could but how would he ever know about it? That was the official presumption. It had to be an American leak to let the facts be known to the Indian public, and that too years after the deed was done.

A classic example of the attempt to hoodwink the Indian people is the claim made by our "official sources" that the Commonwealth summit at Melbourne was a triumph of India's "silent and subtle" diplomacy. It was emphasized that despite world Press forecasts to the contrary, the issue of Pakistan rejoining the Commonwealth was not at all raised at the conference and that the Indian point of view on

Afghanistan and Kampuchea had found a place in the communique. It did not occur to the "official sources" that Mrs Gandhi's very determined and vocal stand on the issue could be called neither silent nor subtle. And even though the Commonwealth summit communique, as usual, can mean different things to different people, the fact remains that, as far as Afghanistan is concerned, it went much beyond the earlier New Delhi communique.

THE ART

To the art of deceiving the people has now been added the art of self-deception or sycophancy. This extension of a disease from domestic politics to foreign affairs is disconcerting because, while there are counter-checks at home, a diplomat usually has the run of the field. There is reason to believe that some of our diplomats posted abroad would rather tell South Block what it would like to hear rather than something which may invalidate its fanciful theory on a given subject. That a diplomat is sent abroad to lie for the good of his country is textbook knowledge but that he has started lying back to his own country is a fresh development.

Nothing proves this better than this country's image abroad as against that of Pakistan. The plain fact is that, particularly after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan has very successfully been portraying its image as an aggrieved nation and winning sympathy all round. It has done so not only through its Foreign Minister or its regular diplomats but has been sending, without any fanfare, indeed in secrecy, some influential Pakistanis all over the globe for quiet lobbying. It has been exploiting to the full its friendship with the USA, with China and its links with the Islamic bloc. And this fact, known to our diplomats, remains uncommunicated because the diplomats do not want problems for themselves.

Today India's name evokes neither respect nor consideration in world forums and neighbours look on it with suspicion. It can possibly be argued that this is the price an independent and

populous nation growing stronger every day despite myriad domestic problems, has necessarily to say. Up to a point that is correct. But even this cannot explain away our failure to make friends and influence nations.

The ebb and flow in the world popularity of India and Pakistan makes interesting reading. In 1947 we were on the top of the world. A series of diplomatic initiatives, Nehru's contribution to the concept of non-alignment, the country being able constitutionally to retain the name India and the manner in which independence was won, helped. We were a name in the world. We had influence.

Our refusal to join the American defence against Communism (a good thing too), starting with Richard Nixon's trip to this country and Pakistan around 1969, alienated us a bit, as did our initial equivocation about Hungary, but it was after the Chinese invasion in which we cut such a sorry picture, that our image plummeted. It took an upward swing after the liberation of Bangladesh but nosed down again after the declaration of the Emergency in 1975. The 1977 General Election and the catapulting of the Janata Party into power radically changed our image. We were described as a vibrant democratic nation. Further, whatever Mr Morarji Desai's other faults, he inspired confidence among nations, in particular our neighbours. However, this was partly offset by the growing inability of Janata either to unite or to govern and the subsequent General Election and the return of Mrs Gandhi to power made the world make a reassessment of us. The subsequent developments in Iran and Afghanistan and the impression that we were under excessive Russian influence caused problems for us.

blems for us

And Pakistan? It was nowhere near us in the initial post-independence years. Its failure in the democratic experiment and its military regimes hardly improved its image, although, so far as the USA is concerned, it has always been patronised by a section who would condemn the Emergency in India but make friends with military dictators in Pakistan. The coming into power of Mr Bhutto resuscitated the Pakistani image a bit but his fall and execution left Pakistan virtually friendless.

THREE FACTORS

It bounced back again because of three factors: developments in Iran, Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Mrs Gandhi's return to power. It has been skillfully and quietly taking advantage of each of these developments and winning international friends, usually at the expense of India.

What can India do? It is true that international relations is too complex a subject to be analysed in terms of image alone and that irrespective of what we do some people will always be against us for the simple reason that our size, potential and comparative strength suit few. But then diplomacy is ultimately judged by its success and we must succeed in improving our image and winning friends.

Perhaps we could begin by improving our relations with our neighbours and inspiring the same kind of confidence that Mr Morarji Desai had successfully done. Also even if it means emulating Pakistan, we, too, could send out seasoned men (Mr Swaran Singh for instance) for quiet diplomacy abroad. Pakistan functions at several diplomatic tiers. So must we.

PETITION AGAINST CUBAN ENVOY ACCEPTANCE REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 15--The nonappearance of counsel on either side led to the dismissal of a writ petition under Article 226 of the Constitution by a two-Judge bench of Delhi High Court today. The petition was filed yesterday by Mr P. N. Lekhi, a senior advocate.

Mr Lekhi had submitted in his brief that the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister for External Affairs, had failed in the proper performance of their respective public duties, before giving their consent to receive Mr Jose Perez Novoa, as Ambassador of Cuba, by overlooking deliberately or otherwise, his criminal antecedents, particularly the links of the Ambassador with KGB.

Referring to a report published in THE STATESMAN, Mr Lekhi said Mr Novoa, who had earlier been accredited to Ethiopia as Soviet Ambassador, was declared by that country as a persona non grata in 1978 and expelled on the ground that he had acted "as a mole of the KGB."

The report, based primarily on a DAILY TELEGRAPH report, "The Intelligence War--Cuban Spy Chief in New Delhi," had stated that Mr Novoa had been expelled from Addis Ababa together with his counsellor and the South Yemeni Charge d'Affaires when all three men had been found to be embroiled in a plot to install a Moscow-line Marxist in place of Colonel Mengistu at the head of Ethiopia's revolutionary regime.

Mr Lekhi had said in his brief being a "public spirited" person, a lapse on the part of the Ministry of External Affairs appeared to have occurred--a lapse, which he said could be rectified by the court.

If the lapse were not rectified, Mr Lekhi had said, grave consequences might result to the country. Its sovereignty, unity and integrity might fall prey to "sinister designs" of foreign Powers.

Mr Lekhi referred to the U.N. General Assembly resolution of December 21, 1965, which adopted the declaration on the "inadmissibility of intervention in the domestic affairs of the States and the protection of their independence and sovereignty," according to which no foreign State had the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, in the internal or external affairs of a State.

Mr Lekhi said Mr Novoa as such had been a conscious violator of diplomatic norms and that there was no guarantee that he would not behave the similar way in India as he had had in Ethiopia.

Mr Lekhi had requested the court to issue a writ of mandamus to the Ministry concerned asking it not to issue a visa to Mr Novoa and to issue a writ of certiorari to quash the agreement accepting Mr Novoa as Ambassador.

CSO: 4220/7263

USSR TO ASSIST EXPLOITATION OF OPENCAST MINES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] The Soviet Union has agreed to provide technical assistance to India for starting new opencast mines in place of the existing underground mines in the Jharia coalfields, according to Mr R.N. Sharma, Chairman, Coal India. The Russians will introduce a new technology for mining of coal from a depth of 400 feet by opencast method.

According to Mr Sharma, the assistance will be provided under the Indo-Soviet technical cooperation programme. The assistance was agreed upon during the first meeting of the Indo-Soviet coal mining group held in Moscow early this month, Mr R.P. Kholsa, Additional Secretary (Coal) Union Energy Ministry, headed the four-man Indian team which included Mr Sharma.

Speaking to reporters in Calcutta on Thursday, Mr Sharma said difficulties were being faced in mining of coal in Jharia from the upper strata by underground method. There were about 15 seams of coal and since the upper strata was rich in coking coal, the Government had decided to take the Russian technical assistance for opencast mining of the coal.

He said that the new method would be introduced in 75 sq. km. area which now produced about 1.2 million tons of coking coal a year. The CIL hoped to raise the annual production to 12.5 million tons after the opencast method was introduced. The area had an approximate reserve of 500 million tons of coal. Under the agreement, the Russians would provide the design and planning of the mines to India.

During the Moscow talks it was also agreed upon that the Russians would help Coal India raise the production at opencast mines at Jayanat, in Singrauli, from six million tons to 10 million tons a year. They have already agreed to help in setting up a power house at Wadani and starting of new opencast mines at Nighai under a package aid programme. The Indian team stressed the need for parity in the quality of coal to be used in the power house and that to be available at the new mines at Nighai.

The proposal for digging underground mines at Jhanjra, in West Bengal, which had remained postponed since 1973-74, was also discussed at the meeting, Mr Sharma added. It was decided that the Russians would collaborate with Indians in longwall method of mining. Initially, the Russians would dig one mine on a turn key basis and later, they would act in advisory capacity in helping Indian engineers open new mines.

Mr Sharma said that in response to an earlier Indian request for technical assistance for coal excavation in Assam where conditions were difficult, the Russians submitted a report for introduction of a new system of mining in the State, which was accepted by the Indian team. Indian technicians would be sent to Russia for learning the new method of mining.

One important decision taken at the meeting was that the Russian technicians would prepare an integrated master plan for mining of coal in the Talcher Coal basin area. Optimum coal production would be the object of the plan. The Russians had also agreed to send technicians for mass blasting of hillocks in the Singrauli area to help quick excavation of coal, Mr Sharma added.

Our Special Representative adds: Performance of the Eastern Coalfields improved considerably during the first six months of the current financial year. In fact, production could have been still higher if the ECL authorities could start mining coal from the new collieries, which have been ready for operation for the past few months.

According to official sources, production of coal from the ECL mines between April and September this year rose to 10.06 million tons--about 800,000 tons more than what was mined during the corresponding period last year. The target for the current year has been fixed at 24 million tons. The authorities hope that it would be exceeded if the present rate of growth could be maintained. Last year's production crossed the 22.5 million-ton mark.

The ECL comprises the coal mining belt of Raniganj, Mugma-Salanpur and Rajmahal, covering an area of 1,600 sq. km. in six districts of West Bengal and Bihar. The Raniganj coalfield bears the pride of place because coal was first mined in the country there in the latter part of the 18th century. The management of noncoking coal was taken over on January 31, 1973.

More than 350 coalmines had been under private control before this. After nationalization, these mines have been regrouped into 90 reconstituted mines spread over 11 areas for administrative convenience. Only 15% of the total production of the ECL comes from opencast projects and the rest from underground mines. To meet the increasing demand for coal, it has been planned to raise the production to about 34 million tons at the end of the Sixth Plan. But delay in the opening of new mines has given a jolt to the future programme.

The ECL authorities have closed down 16 mines which have been exhausted. Apart from the loss of production of about 1.2 million tons a year, this has rendered thousands of workers surplus. These people cannot be given alternative work because of the delay in the exploitation of the new mines on which nearly Rs 3 crores have already been spent out of the total investment of about Rs 17 crores sanctioned. These new mines are situated at Narkonda, Searsole, Bansra Purandip, Tara Churulia, Dabor, Nigha and Bhanora. Capable of producing about 5,000 tons of coal a day, they could not be opened mainly because of the lingering controversy over employment of local youth.

The ECL has a total work force of about 200,000 which is said to be the highest among all the subsidiaries of Coal India. The wage bill for the workers constitutes more than 75% of the total cost of operation. If the present uncertainty over the opening of the new mines continues, the authorities might develop alternative mining spots to maintain the schedule for increased production of coal.

PAPER REPORTS 16 OCTOBER INTERVIEW WITH SHEIKH

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] Srinagar, Oct 16--The Chief Minister, Sheikh Abdullah, has said that any fresh war between India and Pakistan would not help solve the problem of "Pakistan-occupied Kashmir." In an interview here yesterday, he said the best way to settle the issue was through negotiations, as was agreed under the Simla pact.

"Constitutionally and legally the Pakistan occupied areas of Kashmir belong to Jammu and Kashmir, which is now an integral part of the Indian Union," Sheikh Abdullah said and stressed the need to thrash out all differences between the two countries.

He said he would meet Mrs Gandhi to discuss with her issues concerning Centre-State relations. "However the Centre-State ties were a phenomenon which change with every ministry, and efforts should be made to pull on together in the larger national interest."

Sheikh Abdullah said that Jammu and Kashmir under his leadership would avoid confrontation with the Centre and would "try and pursue policies, especially on development" in accordance with Central guidelines.

Sheikh Abdullah said that in a democratic set-up every party had its right to win over the electorate. But every party had to work within certain democratic norms the ruling party at the Centre or in a State too had to work within some parameters and had to be responsive to healthy criticism.

In reply to a question, the Sheikh refuted allegations that the Iraqi delegation, headed by a Minister, during its recent visit to Kashmir had given any gift to him or to any Government functionary.

CSO: 4220/7268

HUNGARIAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER MEETS PRESS

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Oct 81 p 5

[Text] Hungarian Foreign Trade Minister Peter Veress told newsmen in the Capital on Thursday that the trade turnover between India and Hungary was expected to increase considerably this year and reach the target of about 75 million dollars from 53.5 million dollars in 1980.

Mr Veress came to India at the invitation of Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee and held fruitful discussions with him and other members of the Union Cabinet.

Mr Veress admitted that due to shifting over to the system of payment in any free convertible currency in January 1978, trade turnover between the two countries had registered a temporary decrease: from 57 million dollars in 1977 to 44.4 million dollars in 1978. However, the figure since then has risen to 45 million dollars in 1979 and 53.5 million dollars in 1980. Further possibilities to explore new avenues of economic cooperation were being meticulously studied, he said.

Therefore there was justified hope that the trade turnover would exceed 80 million dollars within a couple of years.

According to Mr Veress, the most important precondition for enhancing trade was to encourage individual enterprises of India and Hungary to come in close contact with each other and forge bonds of cooperation. "Unfortunately there is among managers, chief engineers and technicians of the respective enterprises of the two countries a gap of knowledge about and lack of confidence in each other. Now both our countries have realised the need to overcome this weakness and encouragement is being given by both sides to the enterprises to closely interact with each other," he informed.

The Hungarian Government, he said, was financing such activities as holding of exhibitions, organising goodwill tours of technocrats etc. in order to boost trade in the long run. The trend of improvement in Indo-Hungarian trade was quite favourable today. So far only about six items had played a major role in this trade but now a number of other items were being added. Mr Veress also spoke of India enjoying preferential treatment in Hungary in accordance with the UNCTAD recommendations and in certain cases was enjoying 10 to 40 per cent advantage.

In the last 5 years Hungarian participation in India's electrical energy supplies has progressively developed. Hungary has so far supplied eight complete hydro-power stations to India with the total capacity of 250 megawatts. Recently a contract was signed for the supply of machinery units for the ninth one to be completed in 1982.

During his present visit Mr Veress said he has found that "there is wide scope for further cooperation in energy, energy distribution mining aluminium industry, telecommunications, lamps etc.

In Hyderabad the largest lamp factory of the region was set into operation on the basis of Indo-Hungarian cooperation at the Hindustan Machine Tools (HMT) which supplies lamps, neon tubes and lamp making machinery for the Indian market. "We are ready to go on expanding production" of lamps in India if the HMT or any other authorised Indian enterprise would likewise try to increase cooperation with our enterprises" Mr Veress proposed.

He said Hungarian equipments supplied for the Moscow Olympics had earned world reputation. That is why on the eve of Asiad, 1982 discussions had begun with competent Indian authorities on the question of providing Hungarian manufacturing equipments for the Asian Games. Already two giant score-boards had been ordered from Hungary for the purpose.

Mr Veress said that Hungarian firms were in touch with the BHEL for cooperation in the sphere of hydro-electric plants and certain fresh ideas in this area were being exchanged. The HCL was working with the help of Hungarian experts to manufacture turbines and specialists of both the sides were considering possibilities of further cooperation in this regard.

CSO: 4220/7272

PRESS MEETS LEADER OF NEW JAMMU, KASHMIR PARTY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Oct 81 p 4

[Text] Srinagar, Oct 16--The Election Commission has recognised the pro-autonomy Kashmir Peoples Conference as the second major regional party in Jammu and Kashmir and allotted it the election symbol of lion. So far ruling National Conference was the only recognised regional party in the State.

This was disclosed today by party chairman Abdul Ghani Lone at a press conference. He said the notification of recognition had been issued on 12 August.

Mr Lone claimed that his party's claim for recognition had been granted on the basis of its performance in the Lok Sabha election.

Answering questions, Mr Lone categorically refuted the allegations levelled recently by newspaper that his party was receiving funds from Pakistan and some Gulf countries. He offered to subject himself and his party to any probe in this connection. He also announced that he was planning to launch legal proceedings against the concerned news paper.

Referring to what he called "the dangerous, consistent attempts" at maligning Muslim leaders and their institutions in the country by implicating them in unsubstantiated charges about inflow of foreign money from Muslim countries, Mr Lone suspected that this was being done to thwart the process of integration of the minority community with the national mainstream.

He did not rule out foreign hands behind the destabilisation efforts, especially in context of the spurt in separatist tendencies like Khalistan demand.

He noted that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had already refuted the contention that petrodollars were flowing into India for subversive purposes. Mr Lone recalled that this contention was first raised in wake of Moradabad incidents and was reiterated following conversion of some Harijan families to Islam in Tamilnadu. He was intrigued that attempts were non-sought to be made in the case of Kashmir also because it happened to be a Muslim majority State.

Mr Lone also refuted newspaper reports that while Chief Minister Sheikh Abdullah had accused him of receiving foreign funds, he had retorted by counter-charging that Sheikh and his wife had received Rs 10 crore from Pakistan for demanding a plebiscite.

CSO: 4220/7272

PATNAIK REPORTS NEW PARTY BEING FORMED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Oct 81 p 9

[Text]

AHMEDABAD, October 16: The Lok Dal leader, Mr. Biju Patnaik, who had a three-hour discussion with the former Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, on opposition unity, is optimistic about the emergence of a new democratic party early next year.

Mr. Patnaik came here specially to hold talks with the former Prime Minister. The talks were held this morning at the Gujarat Vidyapith. Later, he told newsmen, "Wait for a few days more. You will hear the news of the emergence of a viable alternative to the Congress (I) early next year."

Mr. Patnaik said his talks with Mr. Desai were encouraging. Mr. Desai was also keen on providing

a viable alternative to the Congress (I), he added.

He said that there might be other leaders of opposition political parties who were keen on bringing all the democratic forces on one platform. The Lok Dal had already adopted a resolution at its working committee meeting urging the opposition parties to unite. The Bhartiya Janata Party was, however, divided on the issue.

Mr. Patnaik said that he had discussed the issue with several other leaders, including the Janata Party president, Mr. Chandra Shekhar. He had no idea whether the BJP president, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, who is arriving here on Sunday, would meet Mr. Desai to discuss the issue.

CSO: 4220/7267

KARNATAKA CONGRESS-I EXPELS 22 DISSIDENTS

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 81 p 7

[Text]

BANGALORE, Oct. 17.—Alarmed by over 200 Congress (I) workers presenting a memorandum to the party central leadership in Delhi on Thursday containing serious charges of corruption, maladministration, malfeasance and anti-party activities against the Chief Minister, Mr R. Gundu Rao, and his Ministerial colleagues, the Pradesh Congress (I) Committee president, Mr K. T. Rathod, has tried to nip dissidence in the bud by expelling 22 party men for six years for anti-party and anti-Government activities.

At the same time, he has issued notices to Mr S. Bangarappa, former PCC(I) president, and Mr K. B. Choudhari, M.P. and president of the Bijapur district Congress (I), asking them to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against them for "encouraging anti-party and anti-Government activity, and defying the directives of the AICC(I) and KPCC(I)".

Mr Bangarappa, who resigned from the PCC(I) presidency 18 months ago, following his induction into the Gundu Rao Cabinet, said he would give a suitable reply when the notice reached him. He also resigned as Minister a year ago because of differences with Mr Gundu Rao.

Mr Rathod, a Minister in the Devaraj Urs Ministry, was in the wilderness following his defeat in the 1978 Assembly elections. At the instance of the Chief Minister, he was appointed PCC(I) president three months ago.

The 22 party workers were expelled because they were active in the newly-formed Karnataka State Congress Workers' Action Committee, a sort of parallel party organization which championed the cause of "loyal party workers". Their grievance is

that workers who stood by the party while it was in the dumps have been "ignored" and dissidents (those who joined the Congress (I) after leaving the Congress (U) and Janata Party after last year's Lok Sabha elections) are being encouraged and given Ministerial posts.

Although he would not spell it out, Mr Rathod appears to feel that both Mr Bangarappa and Mr Choudhari are "encouraging" the Congress Workers' Action Committee. He also appears to feel that the two leaders are associated with the 200-odd delegation of party men now in the capital to seek Mr Gundu Rao's dismissal.

It is significant that there are no prominent party leaders in the delegation which is claimed to be composed of "loyal party workers" drawn from almost all the 19 districts of the State.

PCC(I) circles seem convinced that it would not have been possible for such a large contingent of party workers to go to Delhi but for the "extraordinary interest" shown by some State leaders in the capital who are opposed to Mr Gundu Rao continuing as Chief Minister.

DETAILS OF GANDHI MEETING WITH PUNJAB FACTIONS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] New Delhi, October 16 (UNI & PTI).

Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi today warned that all anti-national, secessionists and extremists activities in Punjab will be "put down with a firm hand at any cost."

Mrs Gandhi administered this warning at two separate meetings she had with a five-member deputation of the Akali Dal (Longowal) and 15-Hindu leaders representing various organisations in Punjab.

The Prime Minister cautioned that the activities of the extremist elements among the Sikhs might pose a danger to Sikhs who were carrying on their own peaceful avocations in other states.

She asked the Akali Dal leaders to exert themselves fully to maintain an atmosphere of amity and tolerance so that the Hindus in Punjab did not "feel any sense of insecurity of life and property."

Mrs Gandhi said "no country would tolerate secessionist activities" and her government would show no softness or complacency in handling such situation.

She said the administration in the state was being strengthened to fight these evil forces.

She also appealed to the Sikhs not to mix religion with politics and assured that the government would not in any way interfere with the religious practices of any group.

The prime minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, had separate talks here today with the Akali and Hindu leaders in an attempt to defuse the crisis that had been brewing in Punjab for several weeks.

During an hour-long discussion with the Akali delegation, headed by Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, Mrs Gandhi said, she would have a Central minister with whom they could discuss their demands in detail.

Describing their meeting with Mrs Gandhi as "cordial," an Akali spokesman said their working committee would review the talks at Amritsar tomorrow and decide whether to call off the "civil disobedience" movement scheduled to be launched tomorrow.

Mrs Indira Gandhi told a delegation of Hindu leaders from Punjab that she was "really concerned" over the deteriorating situation in the state and that the Centre was determined to set things right there.

Describing as "anti-national" the demand for the creation of a new entity--"Khalistan"--Mrs Gandhi emphatically told the delegation it would never be accepted under any circumstances.

First Priority

She was meeting the Hindu leaders after having talks with delegation of Longowal Akali Dal in an attempt to defuse the situation which she had said was her first priority.

Significantly, neither the home minister, Mr Zail Singh, nor the Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, were present at the talks with the two delegations.

But both Mr Zail Singh and Mr Darbara Singh met Mrs Gandhi separately before she received the Akali delegation.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr Bhajan Lal, also met Mrs Gandhi later.

The Hindu delegation, headed by Mr Virendra, president of the Punjab Arya Pratinidhi Sabha, regretted that not even a single person had yet been arrested in connection with the murder of the veteran journalist Lala Jagat Narain.

The law and order situation in the border state, Mr Virendra told Mrs Gandhi, was causing great concern.

The Hindu leaders told the prime minister that the extremists were trying to exploit the situation in the state, which had a weak administration.

It was not the proper time for talks with the Akalis as they might take an advantage of the situation and misrepresent facts, they said.

Mrs Gandhi is reported to have told these leaders that she was asking a non-Punjabi minister to look after the Punjab affairs in her absence. She is leaving on Sunday on a ten-day foreign tour.

Mrs Gandhi informed the Hindu delegation that the Akali leaders told her that though they demanded the release of Sant Bhindranwale, they had nothing to do with him or the demand for "Khalistan."

Earlier, the talks between the prime minister and the Akali leaders, belonging to the Longowal faction, on the Punjab issue had begun in the morning.

Besides Sant Harchand Singh, Longowal, president of the Akali Dal, the delegation included Mr Prakash Singh Badal, Mr G.S. Tohra, Mr S.S. Barnala and Mr Balwant Singh.

Mr Amrinda Singh, a Congress(I) M.P. who acted as the prime minister's emissary, accompanied the delegation to the prime minister's office.

The Hindu leaders told Mrs Gandhi that the government should not agree to the Anandpur Sahib resolution of the Akali Dal for autonomy since it only marked "the first step" towards a separate state.

Mrs Gandhi clarified that she was not fully conversant with the various demands of the Akali Dal and today's discussions were of a general nature and did not deal with specific issues.

The Hindu leaders met Mrs Gandhi after her 75-minute meeting with the Akalis.

The prime minister told them that her foremost aim was to bring about normalcy in the state by defusing the present tension. Punjab was a border state and any turmoil there was not desirable, she added.

The prime minister was assisted by principal secretary, Dr P. C. Alexander, cabinet secretary, Mr Krishnaswamy Rao Sahib, and home secretary, Mr T. N. Chaturvedi.

Emerging from the discussions, Mr Prakash Singh Badal told newsmen, "The meeting took place in a very cordial atmosphere."

Asked if he was satisfied with the talks, Mr Badal replied, "We are always hopeful."

CSO: 4220/7267

INTELLECTUALS CONFER IN PUNJAB SITUATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] Chandigarh, October 11.

About 30 intellectuals, including educationists, historians and writers, who met here today to discuss the "growing communal tension" in Punjab, felt that the "situation does not admit of a simplistic view and that short and long-term strategies have to be evolved to handle it in terms of its economic and sociological aspects."

The intellectuals appealed to the people to ensure that the unity of the country was not undermined in any way as the state had always been in the forefront of the defence of the country. While reaffirming their faith in secularism and condemning disruptive forces, they also appealed to the press to evolve a code of conduct to check the spread of communal disharmony.

The Punjab chief minister, Mr Darbara Singh, who chaired the meeting, told newsmen later that three causes of communal tension were analysed. It was felt that the education system needed to be changed as it did not promote the composite culture of Punjab and was deficient in moral training. Secondly, economic problems and difficulties created tension. The solution for this lay in setting up industries in rural areas and adopting other measures for the betterment of the people. The third cause was the "crisis in religious faith."

In an obvious reference to the Akalis, Mr Darbara Singh said it was strange that whenever the Akalis were out of power, they exploited religion to voice their demands, but kept quiet when in power.

Answering a question, the chief minister pointed out that some of the demands included in the 45-point charter adopted by the Akali Dal (L) were not the demands of the Akalis alone. There were the demand of all Punjabis. As an example, he cited the issue of the Thein dam. Its expeditious construction was the demand of all Punjabis, he said and added that he was willing to sit with the Akalis anytime to discuss the issue.

As regards the Akalis' allegation of government interference in gurdwara affairs, the chief minister asked why the Akalis could not manage the gurdwara affairs themselves. Why should they ask the government to conduct gurdwara elections and seek the enactment of an all-India gurdwara act, he asked.

Asked whether some of the participants had demanded that Punjabi-speaking areas in Haryana and Himachal Pradesh should be merged into Punjab, the chief minister said the intellectuals were of the view that "all irritants" which caused tension should be removed.

Some participants were of the view that the spread of affluence in the state would go a long way in curbing communalism. In this context, they said it was worth finding out whether the reduction of strength of the Sikhs in the army was due to growing reluctance among them to join the defence forces because of economic prosperity, or there was some other reason.

CSO: 4220/7237

ATTEMPT AGAINST PUNJAB NIRANKARI LEADER REPORTED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Chandigarh, Oct 16--a senior Punjab IAS official, also a prominent Nirankari leader, was shot at by two unknown assailants at the State Civil Secretariat this morning. While the official, Mr Niranjan Singh, escaped with an injury, his brother was killed and his gunman (police guard) seriously wounded in the shoot-out. After what looked like a daring and extremely well-organized piece of shooting, the assailants ran back to their third companion who was waiting with a motorcycle. The three escaped while a large crowd collected at the site of the incident.

In a rare feat of courage, the official's gunman, Khush Nasib Singh, chased the two assailants. He had suffered a bullet wound in his neck and was bleeding profusely. He collapsed a few yards from the motorcycle. It was not known whether any policeman was around.

The official's brother, a 26-year-old Surinder Singh, had recently been selected to join the IPS and had accompanied his brother as an additional security escort. He died on the spot after being hit by the assailant's bullets. Mr Niranjan Singh escaped as he ran out of the revolver's range.

Mr Niranjan Singh had been on the anti-Nirankari religious extremists' "hit list" for a long time. The Punjab Government was aware of the threat and had provided him with two armed guards.

Mr Singh, who was Deputy Commissioner of Gurdaspur during the tenure of the previous Congress-I Ministry, is believed to have actually promoted the cause of the Nirankaris. He was one of the Nirankari Guru's "Seven Stars" and had helped organise the Nirankari gathering at Amritsar in 1978 where they had clashed with the followers of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale resulting in the death of 22 men of the latter group. He was involved in the ensuing case and had been suspended from service by the Akali Government.

On his acquittal, he returned to the Punjab Secretariat and is now Joint Secretary (Revenue). Though he had apprehended a threat from the time of acquittal, his fears grew following Lala Jagat Narain's murder.

He is the third prominent Nirankari to be attacked by armed men, suspected to be followers of Sant Bhindranwale. The earlier two were the Nirankari Guru

himself and Mr Shadi Lal Angra in Anandpur Sahib. The murder of Lala Jagat Narain, is also suspected to be a part of the same series. The Punjab authorities claimed that they had provided armed escorts to all vulnerable figures, including Lala Jagat Narain and Mr Niranjana Singh. There are more names on the "hit list" but the authorities said today that they did not think it would be discreet to make them public.

Today's murder created a stir in the Secretariat. It occurred a little after 9 a.m. Mr Niranjana Singh and two others arrived in a car and proceeded towards the entrance as they entered the door, two Sikh youths--probably in their thirties--appeared on the scene and followed them. The Secretariat security staff at the entrance saluted the official. According to the guard, here a sudden burst of firing. Mr Niranjana Singh ran towards a room but was hit in his hand.

Mr Surinder Singh fell after being hit by two bullets. The gunman tried to fix the magazine to his stengun but was prevented by the assailants.

Immediately after the shooting a general alert was sounded to police forces in the Union Territory of Chandigarh and Punjab and Haryana to hunt for the assailants. Though the police sealed all exits from Chandigarh soon after the attack, the trio were at large when reports came in tonight.

PTI adds: The Punjab Government has suspended two armed guards, Ujjagar Singh and Niranjana Singh, who were on duty at the entrance of the Secretariat building when the shoot-out took place.

Meanwhile, the Chief Secretary has directed the Chandigarh administration to take disciplinary action against armed personnel it had posted on the Secretariat premises.

Khush Nasib Singh, however, has been given an aware of Rs 2,000 for "exemplary bravery" by the Punjab Director General of Police.

CSO: 4220/7268

BJP LEADER: AKALI FACTIONS PATRONIZE EXTREMISTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 81 p 16

[Text]

MR L. K. Advani, general secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, said on Thursday that if the current spate of violence and secessionist activities sweeping through Punjab was not halted immediately through political tact and acumen, it could have serious repercussions on this border State. Explosions and sabotage had become a daily routine, creating a sense of insecurity among the people of the State.

Addressing a Press conference in Calcutta, he alleged that what had made matters worse in Punjab was the bitter factional feud among the stalwarts of the Congress(I) from that State who had given a boost to the Khalistan movement by using the Sikh extremist element in their fight against one another. The other disturbing feature was that the Akali factions, far from condemning the secessionist movement, were vying with one another in patronizing the Sikh extremists who were spearheading the movement. Even sober and moderate leaders, including Mr Prakash Singh Badal, had been silent about the killing of Lala Jagat Narain and the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane to Lahore. None of them had said anything against the Khalistan movement. This, according to him, was a matter of "great concern".

The BJP leader said the arrest and the release of Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale was a "glaring example of Governmental ineptitude and bungling". If the Government had no firm evidence against the Sikh extremist leader for his involvement in the murder of Lala Jagat Narain, he should not have been arrested. And if there was evidence against the Sant, he should not have been released. "The Bhindranwale episode is a farcical drama enacted deliberately

to boost the image of this extremist Sikh leader", Mr Advani added. According to him, there were close links between the Sant and the Congress(I) leaders of Punjab.

Mr Advani said a political settlement between Mrs Gandhi and the Akalis was of no concern to the people of Punjab. They wanted violence to end. His party's assessment of the secessionist movement was that the Sikh masses had so far lent no support to the cause which was being espoused by a handful of urban, politically motivated Sikhs who were allegedly being helped by some foreign countries.

According to Mr Advani, what was politically most significant was the fighting in the Congress(I) in various States which was becoming more bitter every day. "A party which is divided against itself cannot solve the problems of the country. This is the most disturbing feature. Mrs Gandhi should first set her house in order to deal with various national problems", he added.

The BJP leader said his party would come to an understanding on specific issues with those parties which were not in power either at the Centre or in the States. He alleged that his party's workers had been killed and harassed in West Bengal by the Left Front "CPI(M) leaders should realize that New Delhi has certain plans in mind for West Bengal. This kind of lawlessness does not help".

He claimed that his party had recently made significant gains in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala. Whatever influence the CPI(M) had in the Hindi belt was "withering". In Punjab, where the CPI(M) had good pockets of influence, the party had now become wholly inconsequential, he added.

FOREIGN FORCES MAY BE BEHIND CONVERSIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 12 Oct 81 p 8

[Article by K. K. Katyal: "The Spurt in Conversions"]

[Text] Are the conversions the outcome of the accumulated anger which has but to burst one day? Is there any substance in the talk of involvement of foreign money?

SOME ascribe it to high-caste repression, others call it the result of police atrocities and still others see the role of foreign money behind it. Perhaps, there is something of everything behind the seemingly sudden spurt of conversions of Harijans to Islam in some pockets of the South. To emphasise one point and ignore the others will produce the same result as was produced by the description of an elephant by the six blind men.

These conversions are not a new phenomenon and have been reported since the mid-forties from various parts of Tamil Nadu. What is new is their present dimension. Barring the 235 Harijan families that embraced Islam in 1944, the number of converts in any single case till 1979 was less than 40. This trend changed from early 1980 onwards, with some 400 conversions in Madurai South district and 1,000 conversions in Meenakshipuram in Tirunelveli district in one go, in each case.

These numbers were too big to go unnoticed. The attention paid by the media reflected the reactions in the country, and the fear of tensions, arising from the concern of the majority community. Luckily, the communal overtones these episodes threatened to acquire at one stage were contained and the problem was examined from sociological angle and in the context of the fall-out likely to be caused by suspicions aroused by large-scale conversions.

There is no evidence to support the view that politically frustrated elements among the Harijans were responsible for giving a fillip to conversions in order to establish their relevance and indispensability for the power apparatus. On the contrary,

the Harijan community of the areas that reported conversions, was strikingly leaderless, and its protest over its present plight was articulated by a motley group. The absence of an accredited representative was felt by the Hindu organisations which belatedly bestirring themselves into activity, wanted to dissuade the converts-to-be.

Equally important is the fact that, in some cases at least, the lead in the matter of conversions was given by the educationally and economically advanced sections of the Harijans. Resenting social inequalities compounded by police excesses, this section tended to dramatise their chagrin and protest by a demonstrative rejection of the present structure.

Disillusionment

Till recently, the conversion to Christianity was considered an attractive proposition. That trend has slowed down, if not stopped. This was because of the disillusionment among Harijan converts who discovered that they had carried their caste with them and that inter-caste marriages and other contacts continued to be as difficult as before. They now tend to try the promise of equality offered by Islam.

The point whether Harijan converts would continue to enjoy the privileges and concessions, available to them as Scheduled Castes in the Hindu fold, is not clear. The Harijans who had turned Christians did not lose their eligibility for the concessions except that in the matter of recruitment to Government jobs and admission to educational institutions, they were treated on par with backward classes.

However, conflicting views were ex-

pressed as regards converts to Islam. While official spokesmen in Tamil Nadu felt that there would be no automatic transfer of benefits to this category the representatives of Islamic organisations argued that concessions that go with economic status could not be taken away simply because of the change of religion and that to do so would be a patent case of discrimination.

It is not difficult to establish the points of social ostracism of Harijans and police repression. Apart from the obvious factual position, the specific cases of large-scale conversions leave no doubt that the two factors had been at work though opinions differ on whether these constituted strong enough motivation for the Harijans to resort to the extreme step.

Sense of social revolt

To take the Meenakshipuram case, the harassment of the Harijans by the high-caste community of the area allegedly in league with the police in the wake of a murder, served as the proverbial last straw on the camel's back. This, according to the account received by the Centre, bred a sense of social revolt spearheaded by two youngmen, not long ago Congress-I activists. The sequence of events that followed was not clear but the end-result of conversions was there for all to see.

In areas like Madurai villages the humiliation experienced by Harijans for years prompted some prominent members of the community to embrace Islam. Other conversions followed in quick succession.

Neither the social disabilities of Harijans nor police high-handedness (of Harijans, other weaker sections, or even not-so-weak sections) is a recent development, nor is the protest by them a new occurrence. Is the present spurt in conversions the outcome of the accumulated anger which has but to burst one day? Or are there other reasons behind it? Is there any substance in the talk of foreign money?

Influence of foreign fund?

Last month, THE HINDU carried a report based on bits of information received by New Delhi on the possible influence of foreign funds behind the unusually large-scale conversions, of which some more details are available now. Among the agencies stated to be active in organising conversions were the Indian Union Muslim League, the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Tablighi Jamaat and Ishaat-ul-Islam Sabha.

The Indian Union Muslim League is a political party ably represented, for instance, in the Lok Sabha by senior leaders who do not miss any opportunity to represent the case of the community, as they see it. That is well within their province, but could this also be said of their reported proselytising role which belongs to religious organisations? The Muslim League is too well known to need detailed description but other parties are not.

The Tablighi Jamaat is not an organisation in the conventional sense but a movement and has been active in organising "Jamas" or religious congregations. Of late, the frequency of such congregations increased, a notable one being the world "Jama" held in Tiruchi in April last. It was attended, among others, by some 500 delegates from abroad—from the Arab world, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Malaysia as also some western countries. The discussions were confined to religious matters.

The Jamaat-e-Islami is an avowedly communal organisation which was active in various parts of undivided India for years under the leadership of Syed Abul Maudoodi who, to his followers, became a legendary figure during his life-time. It stands for the establishment of an Islamic order like most other institutions. The Jamaat was split as a result of the Partition, the Pakistani segment becoming more active not only in religious but also in political affairs. In India, however, it professed to be a non-political organisation. There was, however, no change in the objective, ushering in an Islamic order.

The Ishaat-ul-Islam Sabha, set up some 20 years ago in Tirunelveli, is known to be in the control of pro-Muslim league sections. It had been taking a keen interest in conversions and was active among other places, at Meenakshipuram.

The reports suggesting foreign influence are based on the Jamaat-e-Islami's links with pan-Islamic groups, particularly those in the Arab world and its recent activities. Special mention is made of its all-India conference in Hyderabad, earlier this year, when some new converts were presented, in the presence of several delegates from other countries, including the representatives of World Supreme Council of Mosques, Mecca, and the visit to Tamil Nadu of a representative of the Islamic Cultural Centre, London.

The foreign influence theory also gets strengthened by some other stories—press reports in West Asia and Pakistan about a large-scale aid programme for Indian Muslims, the plans of a Karachi-based organisation, Motmar-al-Alam-al-Islami, to support concrete moves for the propagation of Islam among the Harijans, the flow of funds from abroad for construction and renovation of mosques and specific targets stated to have been set by Muslim organisations in other countries for attracting Harijans to the Islamic fold.

Some of these reports may be exaggerated or give a distorted picture. On issues like this, it is difficult to separate the grain of facts from the chaff of fiction, and this is not a very happy situation. All this points to the need for 'do's and don'ts' in the matter of propagation of various religions, of involving Muslim religious leaders in a consensus on the subject.

WEST BENGAL CONCERNED OVER NAXALITE VIOLENCE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 81 p 3

[Text] Mr Jyoti Basu said in Calcutta on Thursday that the West Bengal Government would deal with Naxalites "politically and administratively." The Chief Minister complained that the extremists were trying to regroup to spread violence and organize killings. He was speaking to reporters at Writers Building.

The Government, however, had no plan to order a general round-up of suspected extremists. He declined to disclose if a special cell of the police would be formed to tackle the Naxalite problem. According to him, violent activity, allegedly organized by the extremists, was on the rise in Nadia, Burdwan and some other places.

Mr Basu remarked that assassinations were a part of the extremists' "policy"; they had no "political ideology." They had allegedly killed 450 CPI(M) workers. The Chief Minister said he did not know why the extremists took to killings. "They had killed Hemanta Basu and might kill us as well," he added. There were many Naxalite groups. While some maintained that they did not go for killings, others, "particularly the pro-Lin Biao group," chose the path of assassinations, he said.

According to the Chief Minister, there was no report so far that the Naxalites had any collusion with the Congress (I). "We've heard that the extremists had a link with the Ananda Margis," he said. In reply to a question, Mr Basu alleged that both the Congress(I) and the Naxalites were exploiting the Jharkhand movement to gain a foothold in the tribal belt.

CSO: 4220/7263

WRITER DETAILS RISE IN NAXALITE ACTIVITY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Oct 81 p 8

[Article by A. S. Abraham: "Resurgence of Naxalites: Politicians Must Carry the Can"]

[Text] **T**HE Naxalites are getting dangerously active again. They are officially estimated to be 30,000-strong today and the number of violent incidents (many entailing the loss of human life) in which they are involved or implicated is also, again by the official count, growing by the year.

In 1977, the Janata government took office and, influenced by its concern for civil rights whose restoration after the emergency was its main objective and attainment, adopted a very liberal attitude to the many-splintered Naxalites, large numbers of whom had previously been killed in dubious "encounters" with the police in various states. Under the Janata, the police were reined in and made more accountable, while many prisoners long awaiting trial in jails and often dumped there on suspicion of being extremists or Naxalites (the two words have come to be all but synonymous in the Indian political lexicon) were set free.

In 1977, there were 69 violent incidents involving Naxalites and 21 deaths occurred in them. In 1978, there were 163 incidents and 40 deaths; in 1979, 233 incidents and 62 deaths, and in 1980, 305 incidents and 84 deaths. Until the end of August this year, there were 203 incidents and 48 deaths.

The states where the Naxalites are most active are, in order of severity, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Punjab and, although much less so since last year, Tamil Nadu. Interestingly, two of these states are run, in the one case, by a CPM-dominated Left Front and, in the other, by a coalition, albeit now on the verge of

cracking up, in which the CPM is the leading partner. In both West Bengal and Kerala, after the present governments there came to power (mid-1977 in the former, January 1980 in the latter), one of the first things they did was to release those Naxalites held in detention without specific charges. They also decided not to use the National Security Act (when that measure became available) or any other preventive detention law against Naxalites, and to deal with the latter not through police "encounters" but at the political and ideological levels.

REALITY

Yet, reality has a way of knocking prudence into even the most radical heads. Thanks to the growing depredations of the Naxalites in the countryside in both states, the West Bengal government is discovering that it has tied its own hands in attempting to stem the admittedly as yet limited undermining of its writ by the Naxalites by its commitment not to use the NSA or similar legislation against them. As for the Kerala government, it has unsuitably and dishonestly broken the spirit of its commitment even while adhering to it in the letter. It is not using the NSA, true enough, but, in order to contain the spread of Naxalism, it has fallen back on a 30-year-old and all-but-forgotten law, the Travancore-Cochin Public Security Act whose provisions are even more draconian than those of the NSA!

Naxalism is commonly (and not wholly wrongly) believed to flourish in exploitative and feudal social conditions such as are prevalent in states like Bihar and parts of

Andhra Pradesh which the "bourgeois-landlord-monopolist" axis is believed to hold in a vise-like grip. Yet, Kerala and West Bengal can hardly be characterised in these terms. Kerala is almost a by-word in the country for providing efficient mass social welfare services, especially for children and women. One index (and consequence) of this is the success there of the family planning programme, which is an integral part of a much larger assault on social and economic stagnation.

In West Bengal, the last four years and more have seen the passage and, more importantly, the implementation of progressive land-reform legislation bringing unprecedented benefits to, among others, the hitherto wretched of the Bengali earth, the *barjaders* or sharecroppers. The West Bengal government has put out big advertisements in the press throughout the country trumpeting its manifold achievements benefiting in the main the poor and the weak.

HEADWAY

For all these achievements, Naxalism does not seem to be making any less headway in these two states than it is in others generally believed to be symbols of backwardness and exploitation. In West Bengal in February, there were a rash of Naxalite gun-snatching incidents in West Dinajpur district in the north of the state (of the 74 guns carried away, 55 have since been recovered). On September 26, a Special Branch police sub-inspector was killed by Naxalites near Calcutta. Until September 15, Naxalites were behind 35 incidents in the state and 27 people were killed in

them. In 1980, 32 people died in Naxalite-organised incidents, as against only six deaths at Naxalite hands in similar incidents in the state in 1979. So far, some 1,300 arrests are reported to have been made. So much for combating Naxalism at the political and ideological levels!

In Kerala, 13 CPI-ML factions met recently in secret in Trichur district earlier this year to discuss coming together. Subsequently, in the guise of a body innocuously called the "Janakiya Samskarika Vedi" (People's Cultural Forum), the Naxalites have been engaging in the politics of intimidation. "People's courts" have been held, with doctors among the first objects of such extra-legal judicial solicitude. In another incident, a lorry carrying cement was intercepted at night and the cargo sold on the spot at the controlled rate (each bag of cement fetches a black-market price of Rs. 60 to Rs. 70). The lorry-owner, himself guilty of breaking the law, could hardly complain to the police! The regrouped Kerala Naxalites bring out a clandestine publication, "Inquilab", which says that their objective is to topple the rule in India of "feudalism, bureaucratic overlordism and imperialism" through "guerrilla warfare" and to institute "people's power" in a new, democratic, revolutionary setup.

While there is a resurgence of Naxalism and of Naxalite activity in many parts of the country and while they have been able to establish (or re-establish) a popular base of some kind, even in communist-run states like Kerala or West Bengal, nevertheless, these developments must be kept in per-

spective. It is not as if the Naxalites are about to attain the following or the influence (especially on the less extreme left) that they had in the late sixties. They are still essentially a fringe phenomenon, more able to win popular support in specific instances (like campaigns to terrorise doctors into not charging poor patients extortionate fees) than to consolidate such support and convert it into ideological fervour for the larger cause of overthrowing the system.

How is it, then, that despite being even more peripheral, politically, today than they were in their heyday, they are emboldened to carry on their bloody campaigns against the police, bureaucrats, landlords (as now in Lahsuna village just south of Patna, Bihar's capital) and other targets of their ideological wrath? Why are they becoming more and more self-confident about stepping up their violent activities, as the statistics show they are steadily doing so?

One reason is that since 1977, they have enjoyed much wider public sympathy, especially among the middle-class, left-leaning intelligentsia and among those civil libertarians who genuinely believe that the test of an open society is its tolerance of even those dedicated to destroying it and replacing it with a set-up that will deny everyone the most elementary liberties. As the system becomes openly more and more corrupt and inequitable, many of these moulders of public opinion come to feel that acts like those the Naxalites commit are at worst a necessary evil and at best a vicarious register of the moral indignation of the long-suffering and exploited masses. Having lain low since they were crushed in the early and mid-seventies, the Naxalites now appear to believe, judging by their growing record of violence, that the times are again propitious for them to carry out their tasks as the self-

appointed avengers of the oppressed.

OFFENSIVE

But even a favourable climate of opinion, such as now seems to exist, would not have encouraged them to go on the offensive had there not been a source of greater, if indirect and unwitting, encouragement. This is the manifest failure of legitimate and properly constituted authority to do its job. The Lahsuna instance has exposed yet again the natural alignment of authority with local bigwigs even (or especially) when the latter have flouted every legal and moral code. Another aspect of the contempt in which authority is coming to be held emerges in Bihar where senior IAS officers are in revolt against being made subservient to and humiliated by politicians.

Ultimately, it is the politicians who must carry the can. Because they have set about subverting the very institutions on which the state must depend to push through and win popular acceptance for its policies and programmes — the bureaucracy, the judiciary, the universities, the press — they have been ensuring that the entire edifice of ameliorative government becomes no more than a facade for a squalid, corrupt, amoral parallel set-up where hustlers, carpetbaggers and sharks do deals to enrich themselves and impoverish the country and the people at large.

When the face of legitimate and humane authority, on which a stable order rests in the end, becomes a mask covering a visage scarred by the most terrible venality, then the body politic on which that ugly head rests cannot long remain uninfected. Even as the infection creeps down, the worms of extremism, left or right, communal, sectional (Khalistan) or secessionist (the north-east), make bold to crawl out, hastening the onset of the rot on which they fatten.

CONFERENCE ON TRIBAL AREA DEVELOPMENT ENDS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Oct 81 p 14

[Text]

BHUBANESWAR, Oct. 13.—A two-day all-India conference on tribal area development which ended at Bhubaneswar on Sunday reached a consensus that socio-economic conditions continued to remain "miserable" despite implementation of tribal development programmes by official and non-official agencies.

Briefing reporters here yesterday, Mr K. R. G. Nair, secretary of the Society for the Study of Regional Disparities which organized the conference, said the conference had stressed the need for the adoption of "a practical and integrated approach" for tribal area development. It was also felt that the opinion of tribals should be sought while formulating development programmes.

About 30 delegates specializing in the field of tribal area development from different States attended the conference, at which the need for further study on methods of imbibing industrial culture among tribals without disturbing their traditional culture was also stressed. The problem of low fertility and high mortality rates in tribal areas was discussed.

Presenting the results of re-

search work on the Chotanagpur region Mr L. N. Bhagat of Calcutta University, pointed to inadequate adoption of new agricultural technology by tribals and assigned its reason mainly to unsuitability of adopting modern farming in areas having uneven topography, scanty rain and resultant soil erosion. In his paper, read out at the conference, he called for appropriate technology to suit the physical environment in different tribal areas.

Professor Asish Bose of the Population Research Centre, Delhi University, in his paper expressed concern about the high infant mortality rate in rural and tribal areas of Orissa. This would result in lowering the birth rate without the practice of family planning. He said this was a cause for concern and not a matter for rejoicing.

Among several points raised at the conference on methods of tribal development, several experts referred to the difficulty in communicating with the tribals in their own languages. The conference felt that this was a serious obstacle in the implementation of various development programmes for tribals.

CSO: 4220/7250

OFFICIAL SAYS NEPAL ENCOURAGES SMUGGLING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Oct 81 p 14

[Text]

PATNA, Oct. 13.—Customs officials have expressed their inability to check smuggling along the 15,000 km-long border between India and Nepal, reports UNI.

Mr R. P. Thawani, Customs Collector in charge of the Indo-Nepalese border, told reporters last night that complete stoppage of smuggling across the border was impossible because of Nepal's trade policy. He said the Nepalese Government was encouraging smuggling on both sides of the border.

Mr Thawani was briefing reporters on smuggling before the east zone conference on anti-smuggling measures to be inaugurated here by the Union Minister of State for Finance, Mr S. S. Sisodia, on October 20.

He said the foreign exchange earned through "export of Indian goods smuggled into Nepal, was being used to "import" luxury and other items which ultimately found their way into India.

The collector said that last year Nepal "exported" over two million tons of pulses, Rs 3 crores worth of snake skins, and Rs 6 crores worth of goat skin. "All this was

definitely "smuggled" from India", he added.

Nepal imported about one million watches against its maximum requirement of about 200,000 pieces. Similarly, textiles worth Rs 20 crores and other electronic goods were imported, resulting in what he described as "reverse smuggling".

Moreover, Mr Thawani said contraband items like ganja and charas were smuggled in huge quantity to Western countries via India. He said despite best efforts to check smuggling very little could be achieved as the entire border could not be manned.

The collector said goods worth Rs 1.80 crores were seized in 1978, followed by seizures worth Rs 1.45 crores in 1979, Rs 1.65 crores in 1980 and Rs 1.65 crores till September.

Mr Thawani said so far 11 people had been arrested and detained under COFEPOSA, of which seven belonged to Bihar. Seventeen others were evading arrest under COFEPOSA. Orders had been issued to detain six more people, he added.

CSO: 4220/7250

CONGRESS-I TAKES FIRM LINE AGAINST DISSIDENTS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Oct 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 12.—The Congress (I) high command is, to all appearances, taking a firm line against dissidents in the party in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Since her return from a 16-day trip abroad, the Prime Minister has met Mr R. Gundu Rao and Mr Jagannath Mishra, the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Bihar.

She has also met three Bihar dissidents—Mr Ramratan Ram, Mr Jiten Majhi and Mr Moni Singh Yadav—and reportedly told them that she was "aware of everything" but at the same time advised them to maintain discipline because unity in the party was essential.

After Mr Mishra and a number of dissident Bihar legislators today met Mrs Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, the Congress (I) general secretary in charge of Bihar, she said that the AICC(I) had warned party men that indiscipline would not be tolerated in any State.

Neither attempts to destabilise the State Governments, nor campaigns against Chief Ministers belonging to the party would be allowed by the high command, and stern action would be taken against those found indulging in such activities.

However, she said, party men could always ventilate their grievances in party forums and apprise central leaders of their problems and difficulties.

Mrs Bajpai said she had assured Congress (I) members in the States that their grievances would be looked into, but indiscipline

would not be tolerated at any cost.

Earlier, Mr Jagannath Mishra told reporters that he had overwhelming support among MLAs in Bihar and there was no threat to his Government. He held that "a maximum of 15 out of a total of 240 Congress (I) legislators" were dissatisfied with him but he would not call them dissidents.

He said his Government was stable and "everything is fine". He enjoyed the Prime Minister's support. The law and order situation had shown a distinct improvement, and the Central leadership was satisfied with his performance.

When reporters pointed out that 40 MLAs were present in Delhi to meet Central leaders and demand his ouster, Mr Mishra said: "You can go and look at the register at Bihar Bhavan. Not more than five of them are here."

Mr Mishra even claimed that no memorandum of charges against him had been submitted to the party high command. The "disgruntled" legislators did not have any specific charges against him. The charges levelled by Mr Karpoori Thakur had been replied to in detail.

"It is a party led by Mrs Gandhi, and I am only working on her behalf as her faithful follower. Where is there any room for dis-

sidence in this situation?"

A spokesman of the dissidents, however, pointed out that a formal charge-sheet against Mr Mishra had been presented to the Congress (I) leadership. And the Union Home Minister, Mr. Zati Singh, had also said in the Rajya Sabha that the charges made were being investigated.

The spokesman said that over 100 MLAs were unhappy with Mr Mishra's leadership and they wanted him to be replaced by a more acceptable leader. More than 40 MLAs were already in Delhi to seek his dismissal, and "many more" were on their way to the capital.

They alleged that corruption was rampant in Bihar under Mr Mishra. In the construction of the Rs 600-crore Kosi project around Rs 100 crores were being spent every year though no work worth this amount was visible anywhere. A State like Bihar with a population of 70,000,000 produced less than 200 MW of electricity. The State Government had failed to even to spend Rs 6 crores allocated for the Water Development Board.

With regard to Andhra Pradesh Mr K. Prabhakara Rao, PCC(I) president, announced after meeting Mrs Gandhi that the suspension of two Ministers of the Andhra Pradesh Government from the Congress (I) would be revoked upon fulfilment of certain "conditions" set by the party's leadership.

Mr Rao said he had submitted a "note" to Mrs Gandhi explaining the circumstances leading to the suspension of the two Ministers and the ways in which the issue could be resolved.

MANIPUR POLICY ON INSURGENTS DESCRIBED

Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Oct 81 p 7

[Text]

IMPHAL, Oct 9
 The Manipur Government thinks that insurgents are misguided youths who can be brought back to the national mainstream. That is why in recent months the establishment has appealed to underground elements to come over-ground and avail themselves of the attractive rehabilitation schemes. They are promised employment according to their qualification and financial assistance to enable them start life afresh. But these opportunities are only for those who surrender.

Those insurgents who were captured

in raids or encounters are still languishing in jail in different parts of the country. So far 197 insurgents have surrendered to the State Government and according to officials 120 of them have been rehabilitated. The remaining will be given jobs soon.

In view of the increasing number of insurgents who have surrendered, the Government had to open a separate Directorate of Rehabilitation this year.

The Government has approved several schemes including starting of cooperative societies.

At Chenung village, 27 surrendered rebels have started a cooperative society named "United North Eastern Self-employed Youths Agricultural Development Cooperative Society Ltd". Now these youths are cultivating paddy, sugarcane, potato, beans etc. in a field of 25 hectares. The Agriculture Department has given them a tractor, power tiller and farm implements worth Rs. 1 lakh at subsidised rates.

At Khoymun village, 17 surrendered rebels have started fishery schemes worth Rs. 1.8 lakhs.—A Correspondent.

CSO: 4220/7228

TEXT OF GANDHI MESSAGE ON FAMILY WELFARE

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 10.—The Prime Minister has warned that if the present rate of population growth was not quickly brought down, "the strain on our resources will be too great to make any progress", reports PTI.

In a message on the eve of the National Family Welfare fortnight, she said the recent census has underlined the importance of family planning and the urgent need to free it from the limitation of a Government programme to a much more effective people's movement.

With adoption of small family norms, she hoped, the children would be able to look forward to a brighter future and women would make better home-makers and more interesting companions to their husbands and families.

The following is the text of her message: "The recent census has underlined the importance of family planning and the urgent need to free it from the limitation of a Government programme to a much more effective people's movement. If the present rate of the growth of population is not quickly brought down, the strain on our resources will be too great for any progress in development.

"The aim of family planning is to have healthier and happier children. Naturally this will be of enormous benefit to parents, and indeed to the entire country.

Children will be able to look forward to a brighter future. Women will no longer be drudges and will be able to develop their personalities and become better home-makers and more interesting companions to their husbands and families.

"I hope our people will no longer be taken in by the false propaganda that has done so much harm. Let the National Family Welfare fortnight this year give a new impetus to mass acceptance of the small family norm.

"I wish the fortnight all success".

The Union Health Minister, Mr B. Shankaranand, today stressed the need to achieve the time-bound programme to reduce the birth rate to at least 21 and death rate to nine for every thousand and infant mortality by 50% by 2000 A.D.

Mr Shankaranand, who was speaking over All India Radio on the eve of the National Family Welfare fortnight, said unless this was done, population growth would nullify all efforts at raising the socio-economic level of the people.

CSO: 4220/7233

FAVORABLE PRODUCTION TREND EXPECTED TO CONTINUE

Madras THE HINDU in English 11 Oct 81 p 6

[Article by Leo]

[Text] The uptrend in industrial production in the first six months of the current financial year, following an improvement in the power situation and supplies of coal and other raw materials, has given rise to expectations that a growth rate of 8 per cent can be achieved in 1981-82. The increase of over 13 per cent in April-September as compared to the corresponding period last year has been exaggerated by the poor performance in April-June 1980.

It has been indicated in the annual report of the Reserve Bank that industrial production rose by only 4.6 per cent in the latter half of 1980 though this rate compared favourably with a drop of 2.9 per cent in the previous six months. There is usually a higher level of activity in the industrial sector during the winter months. It is, therefore, reasonable to expect that the upward trend will remain in evidence. The better utilisation of capacity of the major industries has already been reflected in an accumulation of stocks of steel, aluminium, heavy chemicals and fertilizers as imports also are being received in sizable quantities.

Better use of capacity

It is estimated that the growth in steel production will be easily one million tonnes in a full year though the operating ratio will not be flattering as the installed capacity has increased substantially in the past four years. The output of fertilizers is likely to be higher by 8 lakh tonnes of nitrogen, aluminium 25,000 tonnes, caustic soda 20,000 tonnes and soda ash 30,000 tonnes.

The bottlenecks in rail movement, resistance to higher prices, delays in implementation of Plan schemes and credit restraints have created problems of marketing fully current production. It has been complained by the managements of steel plants that stocks have risen to unhealthy levels while there has been a reduction in off-take of aluminium due to the failure of the State electricity boards to accept deliveries regularly against orders for aluminium conductors. The

difficulties in this regard have upset the plans of cable producers and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation has been able to sell only 35,000 tonnes out of imported aluminium supplies against the earlier expectation of one lakh tonnes.

The Steel Authority of India also has been making efforts to stagger imports of steel against firm commitments. The steep hike in fertilizer prices and bottlenecks relating to movement have led to uneven absorption of nutrients. It is, therefore, felt by MMTC that fertilizer imports will have to be reduced drastically. This may, however, create problems for the overseas suppliers as they have been formulating their production schedules on the basis of firm Indian purchases and a glut in world markets has emerged.

The consumption of caustic soda and soda ash has not risen significantly and it has been reported that the off-take by the main users has been limited to immediate requirements. It is, therefore, emphasised that there will have to be proper utilisation of supplies from indigenous sources and deliveries against contracts for import should be suitably regulated and fresh commitments entered into only after taking into consideration all factors.

Scope for reducing oil bill

In regard to petroleum products the expenditure on imports of deficit items can be minimised as all the refineries are working at full capacity and there is no dearth of crude supplies. If indigenous production rises to 17 million tonnes in 1981-82 and imports of crude are restricted to 15 million tonnes, the quantum of imports of petroleum products can be even less than four million tonnes. While, thus, there can be a reduction in imports of crude by over one million tonnes and products by two million tonnes, there may not be a corresponding decline in the oil bill as higher average prices will have to be paid in terms of U.S. dollars and there will also be the disability arising out of depreciation in the value of rupee against the currency.

It is, however, hoped that there will be a significant reduction in

foreign exchange expenditure on imports in 1982-83 with a further rise in crude output from the offshore and onshore areas.

Even in respect of cement, the output in January-August has risen by 1.6 million tonnes and it is estimated that production in a full year will rise to 20-21 million tonnes against 17.76 million tonnes in 1980. There would have been no need for import if only the existing plants can be helped to operate at 90 per cent of its capacity of 28 million tonnes. The operating ratio may rise to only

77 per cent from 73.4 per cent even under the most favourable circumstances as power or coal may not be available in the required volume. It is also necessary to point out that the higher level of cement production is due to the use of blast furnace slag and fly ash and clinker output has not risen suitably.

It has, therefore, become imperative to eliminate bottlenecks in regard to transport, coal and power as many units can raise output to above rated capacity with no constraints. Also new capacity will come into being in a big way in 1982 as a large number of units are in the final stages of construction. In the short term, however, it may not be possible to reduce imports of cement though there is scope for effecting sizable savings in other directions, as stated above.

Need for new strategy

The full impact of a higher level of industrial production will be felt in the coming months and it will have to be ensured that the operations of individual producers are not hampered due to difficulties in movement or excessive imports. The opportunity can also be utilised for boosting exports of products in which the country is advantageously placed.

In view of the large trade gap, utmost care should be taken when incurring expenditure in foreign exchange on imports. Any success in displacing unwanted imports will be helpful in purchasing other items which will facilitate even more effective use of existing industrial capacity and providing inputs required by export-oriented manufacturers.

WEST BENGAL USE OF URDU REPORTED INCREASING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 81 p 16

[Text]

THE West Bengal Government has decided to make increasing use of Urdu for official purposes for the benefit of Urdu-speaking people of Calcutta, and Asansol and Islampur sub-divisions.

Mr A. K. Sen, Chief Secretary, told reporters on Wednesday that steps were being taken to implement this decision. Instructions had been issued, he said, to the departments concerned to see that actions were taken to grant recognition to primary and secondary Urdu-medium schools, which were already functioning and which had applied for recognition. Steps would be taken, he said, to purchase Urdu typewriters and to appoint Urdu typists in sub-divisional and block offices in Asansol and Islampur. Similarly, Urdu typewriters would be purchased for the departments of Education, Home, Health, Land and Land Revenue, Cottage and Small-scale Industries and Animal Husbandry. One typist would be appointed for each department.

He said that once the typewriters were purchased and typists appointed, all letters received in Urdu would be replied to in that language. Similarly, in Calcutta, Asansol and Islampur, Government circulars would be issued in Urdu.

Mr Sen explained that the decision was taken in view of several representations made by Urdu-speaking people from these areas. They complained that since they could not follow Bengali or English, the Government correspondence should be in Urdu for their benefit.

The Chief Secretary said that with the increase in allotment of kerosene from 22,000 tonnes last month to 34,000 tonnes in the current month, the supply position of the oil had improved. Instructions had been issued to the dealers to see that only ration card holders were given kerosene. The Inspectorate staff of the Civil Supplies Department had been asked to check the retail outlets to ensure that only bona-fide card-holders were given the supply.

The Chief Secretary deprecated the recent tendency in a section of the Press to publish reports saying that the Governor, Mr B. D. Panda, had met some senior Government officials. In some cases, no such meetings had taken place, but all sorts of "imaginary conversation" had come out in the papers. "This is nothing but a mischievous attempt to set the Governor against the Government in power", he said.

CSO: 4220/7256

MINISTER ACCUSES PRESS OF SENSATIONALISM

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, October 14 (UNI): The information and broadcasting minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, today accused the national and the regional press of "getting derailed" by playing up fissiparous tendencies which were undermining the nation's unity and integrity.

Speaking of a journalism awards function organised here by the "Media India" journal, Mr Sathe deployed the way in which certain issues were being whipped up by the press giving an impression as if a secessionist movement was on in the country.

In an oblique reference to the Khalistan movement, Mr Sathe held the press responsible for "blowing it up beyond proportion."

Mr Sathe said he had every right to make suggestions for improving the functioning of the press and wondered why editors should feel piqued by it.

"As an elected representative of the people I have every right to make suggestions about the constructive role of the press as it is an important pillar of parliamentary democracy," the minister noted.

Mr Sathe alleged that the press did not highlight the achievements and all round progress of the country or the contribution of the common man in this regard. The press, however, believed in sensationalising events. He was not bothered about publicity of his government's policies and programmes.

"The government is willing to take on the editors...I do not want any publicity for the government's good deeds and development activities aimed at bettering the lot of the masses," Mr Sathe said.

CSO: 4220/7255

CPI-M REPORTED FIRING UP POLITICAL LINE

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 81 p 4

[Text]

CALCUTTA, Oct 10.

THE West Bengal committee of the CPM is likely to make its differences with the party's Central leadership known clearly during the party conferences and before the party Congress at Andhra Pradesh in January next year.

It is reported that the points of differences are already being raised in the various local and branch conference of the party, now in progress in West Bengal. A comprehensive political line

is likely to emerge at the party conference in the last week of December.

According to a source, the differences between the Central leadership and the State party are on two counts — organisational and political.

On the organisational question, the Bengal CPM is said to be critical of the Central leadership because the latter failed to spread its influence in the Hindi-speaking areas of the country. According to the West Bengal committee, the Central leadership has failed in this task.

The second point of difference relates to the party's attitude towards Mrs Indira Gandhi. The West Bengal committee feels that US arming of Pakistan is undoubtedly dangerous. But the State committee also believes that Mrs Gandhi is taking advantage of the situation and is creating a 'war psychosis' in order to divert the attention of the people from their economic distress and miseries.

The State committee feels that the Central leadership has not been clear about this attitude of Mrs Gandhi.

It is also reported that quite a sizable section of the party members in West Bengal is opposed to the CPI being given quarters. This section feels, it is reported, that the CPI would take the first opportunity to make up with Mrs Gandhi.

CSO: 4220/7236

WRITER DISCUSSES PROBLEMS, PROGRESS OF CPI-M

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12, 13 Oct 81

[Two-part article by Achin Vanaik]

[12 Oct 81 p 8]

[Text]

AT its recent meeting in New Delhi the CPM politburo did not produce a draft political resolution for its forthcoming congress next January. Apparently, there were important differences within the nine-member body over the identification of the forces in the "left and democratic front". Indeed, it may not be agreed on this broad strategy as well.

It is well known that a minority in the party's West Bengal unit, headed by Mr. Promode Dasgupta, has been resolutely opposed to the application of such a line in West Bengal where a purely Left Front (LF) government has been in office. It is less clear whether this wing opposes the "left and democratic" front as a national strategy. Even so the failure of the CPM to make inroads into the Hindi-speaking heartlands (one of the principal aims of this strategy) and the recent developments in Kerala must make the "dissidents" within the party more doubtful about the validity of the strategy. Where, in any case, are these "democratic" forces?, they may well be asking.

Hitherto, the potential allies were the Lok Dal, representing the "middle peasants" who were seen as class allies of the landless and poor peasantry, and the Janata and the Congress (S), the former Congress (U). The Janata and the Congress (S) were seen as representing the "non-authoritarian" and "non-monopoly" sections of the bourgeoisie, in opposition to the "authoritarian" Congress (I). But now that the Congress (S) in Kerala is about to topple the CPM-led ruling coalition (a "left and democratic" front state government) and so many members and MLAs of the Congress (S) have joined the Congress (I) how long can the CPM argue that the two Congress parties have a different class base?

The CPM is in a dilemma. In Kerala and other states outside West Bengal, it cannot hope to share in power unless it forges a united front. But the purpose of acquiring power must be to enhance the strength of the party on a long-term basis. Yet should the CPM attempt, as in Kerala, to go too far to the left or otherwise pursue policies to consolidate its base, it can be brought down and its "bourgeois" allies can carry out a political realignment with the opposition to keep the CPM out of power. It is the Congress (S) this time, it could just as well be the Janata or any other party the next time.

Bengal problems

Even in West Bengal, where a purely Left Front government overwhelmingly dominated by the CPM rules, the party has its problems. The CPM favours the elections to the state legislature to be held in March next, ahead of schedule. It wants to cash in on the organisational weakness of its principal rival, the Congress (I), by denying the latter enough time to mount an effective electoral campaign. The CPM has also made no secret of its fear that the Centre might topple it at any time and impose President's rule on the state. If the party with its allies can receive a new mandate to rule, this "danger" recedes.

In brief, the fortunes of the CPM during the last three years have been mixed, even though it has been at the helm of affairs in West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura.

On the face of it, the party itself has made remarkable progress. Since 1978 (and the Jullundur party congress) the CPM membership has increased almost from 161,400 members to 267,200. In Kerala the mem-

bership has grown from 67,500 to 104,000 and in West Bengal from 43,300 to 78,100. It has become the dominant force on the India left (though it is still basically a regional party). The CPI's shift towards it also reflects the changing balance between the two parties, in favour of the CPM.

But this impressive rise in membership carries its own dangers, and is also a reflection of the tension a party like the CPM faces in trying to be a mass party (an electoral force) and a vanguard party (a force for "radical change") at the same time. Whereas the first requires a dilution of the political pre-conditions for recruitment, the latter requires the opposite. It is only in conditions of "revolutionary" crisis that the tension is resolved and a Leninist-type party, which the CPM claims to be, can hope to achieve the characteristics of being both a vanguard and a mass party. Between February 1917 and October 1917, for example, the Bolsheviks jumped from being a party of 18,000 to over 300,000.

The tensions and internal conflicts within the CPM whatever may be their immediate focus (such as the strategy of a "left and democratic front") are ultimately rooted in the party's dual character. It is a party within the mainstream of Indian politics which finds it necessary to enter the whole bargaining process of alliances with other parties, characteristic of electoral politics. But it is also seen by many of the members and sympathisers as a force for "radical" change which must assign greater priority to implementing its particular programme through the activities of politically dedicated cadres.

Political murders

The rapid rise in its membership in such a short time could not have been accomplished without the entry on a large scale of the kind of elements who would join the Congress (I) or any other party which happens to be in power. One does not have to believe that the CPM is solely to blame for the spate of "political" murders in Kerala or the "breakdown of law and order" in West Bengal to recognise that the entry of such elements into the ruling party has been a factor in promoting these developments. These entrants could just as easily leave the party when it is out of power.

If, therefore, the aim of the CPM in this period was to consolidate itself, it cannot be said to have succeeded in a significant way. In Kerala it is doubtful if the CPM has significantly strengthened itself. It can command the loyalty of perhaps 25-30 per cent of the electorate, but any stable alliance among its opponents can keep it out of power indefinitely. The united front which it cannot do without also makes it

a hostage of its "bourgeois" allies.

In West Bengal, where for the first time a purely LF government came to power, the prospects were very favourable. The overall outcome seems to have been a failure by the CPM to gain ground in the cities which is partly compensated for by gains in the countryside. In a period of high inflation, the LF government has had to take the blame for the rise in prices of milk, sugar, kerosene and a variety of other essential commodities. Neither natural shortages nor control of stocks by the Centre can fully explain this. There is blackmarketing, hoarding and speculation in West Bengal as elsewhere and the efforts to curb it there have been just as unsuccessful. On top of it, the ration shops dole out grains and sugar mixed with dirt. The public transport system in Calcutta especially is in a shambles and whether true or not rumours that the LF government has received bribes of crores of rupees are widely believed. The underground railway is years behind schedule and rents are skyrocketing. The CPM has tinkered with the education system to its disadvantage.

[13 Oct 81 p 8]

[Text]

THE CPM's hopes of widening its base depend largely with what it has accomplished in the countryside in West Bengal. But it can only expect to have a base which is loyal to it if it alone serves the interests of that base. Such might be the case if the CPM could present itself as the only consistent defenders of the interest of the rural proletariat who make up 25 per cent of the rural population and of the 2 million or so bargadars, and the poorest sections of the peasantry.

But the most significant feature of the CPM's agrarian programme has been that it is intended not to offend the basic interests of those who for the most part operate on "middle-sized" family farms. This class owes no loyalty to any particular party and it is just as prepared to operate outside the party framework in Shradh Joshi type movements as it is to work within the ruling or opposition parties.

This bias of the CPM towards the upper peasantry reveals itself not merely in the policies that the party has tried to implement, but also in what it has failed to do. The issue of minimum wages for the landless labourer, for example, has not been made an urgent policy matter by the LF government. The statutory minimum in 1971 was Rs. 8.10 per day, which accounting for inflation should

today be Rs. 12 per day. The LF government has increased DA for white collar workers in the towns but has not done anything to raise the minimum wage in the countryside. Indeed, there are few villages in West Bengal today where the minimum wage is above Rs. 8. In most places it is less. This is not to say there has not been a raise of some sort in the countryside. There has been and the CPM cadres have largely been instrumental in achieving this. But this has been done through persuading farmers to concede some rise, even if small, rather than building up pressure on behalf of the landless i.e. using "class struggle" methods. It is not just the landlords or the very rich peasants who are opposed to any rise in minimum wages, the "middle-sized" farmers are just as hostile. They are a vital constituent for the CPM's agrarian united front and it is not at all surprising that the campaign for higher procurement prices gets the full support of the CPM. Nor can it be argued that higher procurement prices will lead to higher wages for the landless.

Nor has the CPM distinguished itself from other "bourgeois" parties on the question of an agricultural tax on the rural rich. Not only has there been no imposition of any new tax, however moderate, on the rural rich, but the one tax that did exist and was faithfully collected by previous cong-

ress state governments—a paddy levy on big farmers—has dwindled to nothing.

Coming to what the LF government has done—land redistribution, institutionalisation of credit for the rural poor, food-for-work programmes and Operation Barga—the performance has in general been distinctly superior to that of other states or previous governments (whether Congress or united front) in West Bengal. But the reforms have nonetheless been limited and it is not certain, how permanent they will prove to be. Take the distribution of surplus lands resulting from the implementation of ceiling laws. Out of roughly 140 million hectares of arable land in the country, only a paltry amount of slightly over 4,000,000 acres has been vested. Out of this 1,212,000 acres have been vested in West Bengal.

Surplus land

From this 1,212,000 57 per cent or roughly 670,000 acres have been distributed to 1,300,000 beneficiaries primarily from the scheduled caste and tribes. The distribution of another 170,000 has been held up by court injunctions and 360,000 have still to be distributed. In no other state has so much surplus land been vested. But at the same time, the overall programme is obviously limited in scope. What is

more, the landowners have begun to hit back legally.

It has been the experience of all land redistribution schemes that by themselves they do not count for much unless backed by schemes to provide credit and other forms of help to the new beneficiaries. It is necessary to establish institutional lines of credit and finance to the rural poor. From 1979, the LF government launched a drive to get the nationalised commercial banks, the State Bank of India and the regional banks to coordinate their efforts to provide credit to sharecroppers (bargadars) and the new assignees of vested land. Though a cooperative system exists with a wide network, these rural cooperatives are dominated by the rural rich. The relative success of the LF government compared to that of previous governments is shown by the fact that between 1972 and 1978, all banks together opened 79,000 new accounts in the rural sector carrying special low rates of interest. But it is not known how many of these were for the poorest sections. In 1979-80 alone, the number of new borrowing accounts exclusively for the rural poor was 130,000. This, however, covers only 6 per cent of the total recorded number of bargadars and assignees of vested lands. The vast majority of the rural poor have to rely on the traditional sources of merchant lending and usury.

Various food-for-work programmes like the rural works programme (RWP), food for work (FFW) and composite rural restoration programme (RRP) were initiated in West Bengal in the middle of 1978. Under these schemes a labourer is paid Rs. one or two plus two or three kg. of wheat for a day's work. Fifty-three million mandays of extra work was generated in 1978-79 and 54 million in 1979-80. Assuming that the total agricultural labour force (1,300,000) was involved along with the total number of recorded bargadars and assignees in these programmes, each participating household got ten extra days of work a year. Since the actual number of household members participating was much less, each unit got substantially more extra days of work. Again the performance of these schemes in West Bengal is likely to compare very favourably with the performance elsewhere. But the programmes have faltered. The reason given by Mr. Jyoti Basu is that the Centre has reduced its supplies of wheat from the Central pool.

"Radical" party

But a "radical" party like the CPM could simply tax the surplus producing rural rich in the state and carry on the food-for-work programmes re-

gardless of the defaults by the Centre. That it does not even contemplate doing this is yet another indication of its bias. Indeed by calling for more support from the Centre, it is in effect begging the rural rich in other states to indirectly help the rural poor escape the clutches of the rural rich in West Bengal. Whatever else it is, this is not a "radical" perspective for liberating the rural politician.

Operation Barga has been a partial success. Bargadars were basically tenants/sharecroppers who enjoyed no secure tenancy rights, the tenancy contract being for the most part an oral one, with landowners having the power to kick out the tenant at will. Unlike previous Congress regimes, who placed the burden of proof of tenancy on the bargadar, the Left Front government shifted the onus of rebuttal of tenancy claims to the landowner. And in order to ensure the registration of bargadars in time, the LF government allowed the bargadars to register through the revenue courts, whose officials visited villages. Quite the most important innovation, however, was the LF's instructions to peasant organisations to actively help the bargadars register with these officials. This registration was followed by immediate public verification of the claims. Thus the most important factor was the sense of backing that bargadars felt in acquiring these new rights. In the absence of such organisational support, in due course, the landowners could find a dozen ways to get the bargadar to "voluntarily" surrender his rights.

Out of an estimated 2 million bargadars about 50 per cent have been registered compared to the previous total of 0.2 million since independence. This is something that the LF can take credit for.

But the OB is faltering. The landowners began organising to prevent the participation of peasant organisations in OB and sought legal sanctions against them. In the "Biswanath Ghosh vs the state of West Bengal" case, the High Court ruled that the peasant organisations should not help in the registration of bargadars. Thus the heart of the OB programme was weakened. Either the LF go against the legal structures of the system it has bound itself to respect, or it accept the negative impact on OB. The fact is that the rate at which further registration of bargadars is taking place has greatly declined and is further falling. There has been an increase in the number of bargadars murdered by landlords and a greater reluctance by them to press their claims. Between September 1978 and July 1979, 732,955 bargadars were registered. Between August 1979 and April 1980, only 121,700 bargadars were registered. Since then the pace has slowed further.

WRITER REVIEWS CPI-M RECORD IN WEST BENGAL

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Oct 81 p 8

[Article by Gautam S.G. Vohra: "CPM's Mixed Record in West Bengal"]

[Text]

THE left front in West Bengal is keen that the elections, which are due in June 1982, be held in March. The heat and rain, it has argued, will make it difficult to organise the poll in June; general elections are, for this reason, usually held in February-March. Whether the Centre will agree to the front's request is hard to say.

But whatever the Centre decides, by the time the elections are held, the CPM-led left front government will have completed almost five years in office. This is the first time the CPM has run through its full term. When it came to power twice in the late sixties it was in office for no more than twenty months altogether. Besides, one of the constituents of the ruling coalition, the Bangla Congress, did not share its objectives.

What have been its achievements? On the industrial front, these have been far from impressive. One major plank of its economic policy was to encourage entrepreneurs, as well as multinationals, to set up units in West Bengal. No multinational has done so. Nor have many Indian entrepreneurs, big, medium or small, shown interest in setting up new units in the state. In fact, entrepreneurs from the state have chosen to start new ventures outside West Bengal.

The left front's rule has, however, been a blessing for the "entrenched" big entrepreneur. Chambers of commerce have voiced their preference for the front rule because when it comes to labour relations, the industrialists know who to deal with. During Congress rule, three to four men were often vying for union leadership and working at cross-purposes.

The left front has not been able to halt the decline that has pushed West Bengal down from being the leading industrial state in the country. Since independence, the percentage of

jute as a foreign exchange earner has fallen from 60 to 15. West Bengal's share of engineering exports, despite the state's pioneering role, is down from 80 per cent to around 20 per cent. In chemicals, its share of the national production has declined from 40 to 15 per cent.

Situation gloomy

Obsolescence has taken its toll. Nowhere is this more evident than in the production of textiles in which once West Bengal led the country. Today it has only a few textile mills with outdated machinery. The design of its products has not changed. These can no longer compete with the brighter products of the more efficiently run mills in other states, particularly Maharashtra and Gujarat.

The present industrial situation in the state remains gloomy largely, it is not solely, because of the poor power situation. For this the left front is not to blame. The poor maintenance of the power plants during the rule of the Congress regimes is largely responsible for their poor productivity.

But the attitude of the left front leaders towards the power situation has been peculiar. When I met its leaders in 1978, and again in 1980, they all made light of the state's power problems.

The chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, even refused to acknowledge that a power crisis existed. When I told him that I had met many owners of factories who complained of power being switched off in industrial belts regularly for anything between four and six hours a day, he changed his stand and said that the government was doing all it could to improve the power position. And to ensure that the future was taken care of, the government had submitted proposals for new power projects to the Centre.

These have not been cleared yet. Though the extension of the Kolaghat

project, has been cleared by the Central Electricity Authority, the Planning Commission has yet to give its approval. The usual practice is that a project report is prepared only after receiving informal assurance from the Centre. This has not been forthcoming. In any case, after the power projects are sanctioned it takes at least three years for them to begin operating.

The Centre's indifference to the needs of West Bengal has hampered the industrial growth in the state in other ways as well. The industrial centres like Greater Calcutta, Durgapur-Asansol or Haldia, would have done much better if the Centre had been responsive to their demands of steel and other raw materials. Besides, New Delhi sat unreasonably long over West Bengal's application for new industrial projects, including the Rs. 430-crore Haldia petrochemical complex.

The left front government has had somewhat greater success in achieving its objective to help the rural people. Through legislation it has ensured that all peasant proprietors, the value of whose land is less than Rs. 50,000, do not have to pay property tax. Thus, of the 56 lakh landholdings in the state, only 9 lakhs have to pay the tax.

Loan facility

The rural poor have also benefited. The landless labourers now receive the minimum wage of Rs. 10, something that no other state has been able to ensure. The landlords cannot bring cheap labour from outside the state, as the local work force, which has been made conscious of its rights by the CPM, does not let them.

The West Bengal government has brought institutional finance within the reach of the bargadar (sharecropper). He can borrow up to Rs. 350, if the panchayat sponsors him. This poses

no problem, because most panchayats are controlled by the CPM. The government pays the interest on the loan.

Despite this, the number of sharecroppers who have come forward to take advantage of this facility has not grown as rapidly as was expected. During the 1979 kharif lending programme, the target was to assist 80,000 bargadars. But only 60,000 loan applicants were sponsored. The story was much the same last year.

The government's laudable objective of opening a school in each village has been hindered by its political opponents. In many cases, when it has tried to set up a new school, a Congress (I) worker, who may occasionally hold classes in his house compound, has filed a petition in court claiming that a school already exists. The court has given an injunction and so the school project has had to be dropped.

Through the courts, the landlords have delayed the distribution of land that had been identified as surplus. But what is much more of a setback for the left front government has been its inability to implement the "Operation Barga" programme launched in June 1978. Under it, all the 35 lakh bargadars were to be registered by June 30, 1979 to prevent their exploitation by landlords. The floods, which ravaged large parts of the West Bengal countryside, delayed this process.

The target was then sought to be achieved by March 1980. To make things easier for the bargadars, the land reforms act was amended, so that the onus of proving that a cultivator is not a sharecropper was shifted to the landlord. Moreover, the landlord was required to issue a receipt for the produce he received from the bargadars. Even so, the left front's "Operation Barga" programme, has achieved marginal success.

POOR PROGRESS OF BENGAL LAND DISTRIBUTION NOTED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Oct 81 p 9

[Text]

CALCUTTA, October 13.

PROGRESS of vested agricultural land distribution in West Bengal continues to be tardy. This was conceded even by an official review made recently.

According to the state government, it took possession of over one million acres of vested agricultural land till the end of 1979, of which over 600,000 acres had been redistributed till that time. But the overall progress has been slow in terms of redistribution.

As for the reasons for this unsatisfactory performance in a situation marked by acute land hunger among those who have none or very little, the latest official view is that despite efforts since mid-1979 to remove procedural anomalies and controversies at the most effective level of the block land reforms advisory committee, the same reasons persist.

The present arrangement is that the department prepares the priority lists of beneficiaries, which are to be vetted by the advisory committees. These committees, created by the middle-tier panchayat anchor families, are empowered to modify the list as they deem it fit in the light of the statutory guidelines.

INTERESTING ASPECT

Difficulties have been encountered

in finalising the priority lists because of alterations made by the advisory committees, delay in the preparation of the alternative or supplementary lists and hesitancy on the part of the committees in recommending the distribution of land supposed to be unfit for agriculture.

All these recorded reasons point to an interesting aspect of the problem. All these advisory committees have been given already unfettered discretion in many matters relating to the redistribution of vested land. Also, being nominated by the popularly-elected panchayat bodies in which ruling parties mostly dominate, they are also expected to act in a more or less committed manner in terms of land reforms. But this obviously has not happened yet.

The definition of land unfit for agriculture also remains a bottleneck. Paddy being the main cereal crop of the state, the general impression has been that if a plot of land was unsuitable for paddy, it should be treated as unfit for agriculture, even though the state government has been consciously trying to encourage other types of farming, like dry farming, fodder raising, horticulture and fuel wood forestry. Attempts should be made to persuade the beneficiaries to accept such land and support them with necessary inputs, drawing on numerous schemes of various departments.

CSO: 4220/7248

NORTHEAST YOUTH CONGRESS-I HOLDS CONVENTION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Oct 81 p 9

[Text]

SHILLONG, October 13.

THE North-Eastern Youth Congress (I) convention held here today, expressed grave concern over the attempts of certain vested interests to create instability in the north-eastern region.

The well-attended one-day convention—the first of its kind held here—adopted a political resolution alleging that external and internal forces of reaction were trying to disturb the peace in the region to weaken the nation.

The charge of foreign powers behind the current unrest in the sensitive North-East was repeated by the Meghalaya chief minister, Mr. Williamson A. Sangma, the president of the Indian Youth Congress (I), Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, MP, in their speeches.

The political resolution emphasised that the nation was one and indivisible and urged the youth of the north-eastern region not to be involved in irrelevant and destructive political exercises but engage themselves in constructive programmes of political action.

The convention called upon the youth not to be swayed by any tendency towards isolationism. "They have enough talent, imagination and courage to wield the national party instrument and to play their role in shaping the destiny, not only of the North-East, but of entire nation," the resolution added.

The convention exhorted the youth of the North-East to act with unflinching determination and defeat the "design and machination" of those hampering progress by "misleading the people towards meaningless movements."

The economic resolution passed by the convention urged the government to accelerate the pace of development so as to effectively meet the problems confronting the region.

The convention urged the Centre to fulfil the special role assigned to it by the very history of the region and formulate a "new deal" for the North-East with special emphasis on immediate infrastructural development.

The convention emphasised the need for checking immediately the process of land alienation and emergence of a growing number of landless people in tribal society.

It viewed with concern the high degree of rural indebtedness and exploitation of the poor by moneylenders in the region.

It stressed the need for greater co-ordination between the state planning machinery and commercial banks to extend financial assistance to the rural poor. The convention underscored the urgency for manpower development and called upon the state government to come up with well-defined and time-bound programmes to build a cadre of scientific, engineering and technical personnel among the people of this region.

PTI adds: A call to fight dissipated tendencies fomented by outside forces in some parts of the country with strong determination was given by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi.

"If one or two states think that they can survive on their own, they are mistaken," Mr. Gandhi said and cautioned the student community against unleashing forces beyond their control.

Mr. Ghulam Nabi Azad said some big powers were trying to hinder the progress of the country and it was for the youth to defeat such forces. The youth, he said, must actively participate in the nation-building activities.

Describing the 'YCC (I) convention as an "historic event", the chief minister of Meghalaya, Mr. W. A. Sangma, called upon the youth to give a hand in solving the problems facing the country, keeping in mind the special needs of the scheduled tribes, scheduled castes and weaker sections of the north-eastern people. "We have to fulfil their aspiration and end all exploitation," he said.

Mr. Rajiv Gandhi said the North-East had special problems mainly because of the "communication gap" and asked the Youth Congress (I) to draw up an exchange scheme so that the people of this region and other parts of the country could understand each other.

COMPUTER TO INSURE FAIR ELECTIONS DEVELOPED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Oct 81 p 5

[Text]

The public sector Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has developed an electronic voting computer, which could help conduct fair elections in the future, reports UNI.

The BEL was supplying 100 such computers to the Election Commission for field testing. BEL managing director N. L. Krishnan told a party of newsmen, who recently visited the plant in Bangalore.

Mr Krishnan said these computers would be tested for the first time in some of the coming by elections in the country.

The BEL would make necessary modifications to the computer after getting the feedback. The Election Commission was satisfied with the voting computer. But its future depended on the political system accepting it, he said.

BEL chairman M G K Menon said that while the BEL had developed an all solid-state TV receiver and digital watches, and was producing TV picture tubes. It was mainly concentrating on the development of professional electronics and not consumer items.

The development and engineering activities of BEL were generally aimed at meeting the requirements of the defence services, he said.

In the 27 years of its existence, the BEL has established a viable production organisation competent to deal with any kind of electronic equipment.

A multi purpose meteorological (multimet) radar system for obtaining accurate wind and weather data and detecting storms, cyclones has also been developed by it.

CSO: 4220/7247

FOREIGN SUBVERSION IN NAGA AREAS ALLEGED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 13 Oct 81 p 4

[Text]

Nagaland MLA N C Zeliang has accused the neo-colonial and imperialist powers of denuding Nagaland of its ancient heritage, culture, and even its dialect.

These forces are also perpetrating all types of sinful acts, and creating terrorism and mischief in the poverty ridden Naga areas,' he added.

Inaugurating the National Vanavasi Workers' Conference at Thakkar Bappa Nagar in the Capital on Monday, Mr Zeliang said the dollar laden western powers have been acting as 'trojan horses' for the complete subversion of the peaceful Naga zone.

The conference was organised by the Bharatiya Vanavasi Kalyan Kendra (BVKA).

Citing instances, he said acting as development and evolutionary agencies, they have been using dollars to influence the

thinking and life style of the Naga people. Gradually, the local dialect has been replaced with English with the opening of a chain of missionary run schools.

He said about 40 per cent of the Zeliangrong Naga tribe have embraced Christianity. When Mr Zeliang formed the Heraka Organisation to counter the subversive acts of the foreign powers he was offered bribe, and later efforts were made to assassinate him.

'We can face bullets, but are scared of the empty stomach,' he said and described the reported conversions of Hindus to Christianity as 'an act of livelihood.'

Addressing about 700 workers, including men, women and children mostly belonging to the tribal areas, Mr Zeliang appealed for the protection of national interests and the community.

CSO: 4220/7247

PADDY MARKETING BEGINS ON BRIGHT NOTE IN PUNJAB

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Oct 81 p 15

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 11.

THE paddy marketing season has begun this year on a relatively brighter note in Punjab, the major contributor of grains to the Central kitty.

Official circles seem cheerful as the market arrivals till now are far higher than those in the corresponding period last year.

Ruling paddy prices in main mandis being higher than the statutory support price, the grain buyers so far are the rice millers, who will have to give the bulk of their stocks after milling to the government as levy.

According to latest available information, nearly 140,000 tonnes of paddy has already been marketed in Punjab. Last year only about 60,000 tonnes had arrived in the mandis in this state till this time.

Of the total paddy arrivals, rice millers are reported to have cropped up about 140,000 tonnes. The rest has been bought by the Food Corporation of India and other state agencies at the support price.

The millers' enthusiasm to buy larger stocks this year is due mainly to the substantial increase in the price of levy rice announced by the government for the current year. They will have to sell 75 per cent of the PR-106 fine variety of rice and 90 per cent of the ordinary rice of IR-5 variety to the FCI as per the new levy regulations. So far the millers are reported to be concentrating chiefly on purchasing superior quality of paddy.

Presently, the prices of IR-5 type

of paddy are ranging from Rs 110 to Rs 120 a quintal in different mandis. The superior paddy of PR-106 type is being bought at Rs. 130 to Rs. 175 a quintal.

A good beginning of the marketing season notwithstanding, experts are keeping their fingers crossed about the final outcome of the paddy procurement drive. No clear picture is yet available about the total production in the state and the expected marketable surplus.

CROP ESTIMATE

While some experts feel that the total market arrivals during the entire season might be around last year's level of 4.38 million tonnes, others believe there would be around four million tonnes. Paddy crop in some parts of the state had suffered due to the prolonged dry spell in August-September. The bacterial leaf blight disease had also appeared in some areas.

In any case, millers are expected to buy more paddy this year than they did last year. The total quantity of rice coming to the central grain kitty from the millers would be considerably higher as the levy has been raised substantially.

Reports from Haryana also indicate the beginning of paddy marketing season in that state. Nearly 12,000 tonnes of paddy is estimated to have arrived in mandis. The bulk of arrivals stocks has been purchased by rice millers at prices slightly higher than the official support price.

PARLEY DISCUSSES PUBLIC SECTOR ADMINISTRATION

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Oct 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI Oct 12

Benchmarks for performance have been worked out by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) for 15 sectors of Central public enterprises. These are awaiting the approval of the respective ministries in consultation with the individual units.

Once this exercise is completed a set of agreed performance objectives and financial targets will emerge against which the economic efficiency of the public enterprises can be judged. Not only will this pre-empt interference by ministries it will also enable the units to focus their attention on matters which have a direct bearing on improving physical and financial performance.

This was disclosed here today by Mr. P. K. Basu, Director General of BPE in his special address to the conference on economic administration of public sector enterprises jointly sponsored by the Indian Society of Industrial and Fiscal Economics, the Standing Conference on Public Enterprises (SCOPE) and the BPE.

The conference provided an occasion for the expression of critical comments by Mr. Mohd. Fazal, Member Planning Commission in his keynote address and Mr. L. K. Jha, Chairman Economic Administration Reforms Commission (EARC) in his inaugural address.

Endorsing the views expressed by Mr. Jha on the plight of the public sector steel industry Mr. Fazal specially mentioned that the steel rolling industry in the private sector did not seem to suffer from any constraints at all. He wanted to know from the Finance Ministry how finance could be found by the steel rolling industry producing a large quantity of rolled steel when the public sector steel industry itself was suffering from paucity of resources.

Mr. Jha drew attention to the

limitations which heads of public sector enterprises suffer from 'for too many decisions which should be taken in an enterprise at the plant level or management level, require the approval of government'.

This has many unfortunate consequences. For one thing, decisions are delayed and delays cost money resulting in losses. The very fact of referring problems to Delhi means that the most pressing issues get turned into files which move with their own speed from one level to another, from one department to another, Mr. Jha said.

Mr. Fazal said that top managements often failed to keep abreast of latest concepts and techniques. 'As in the case of technology', he said, 'management can fast become obsolete. Indeed, managerial obsolescence can be more disastrous than obsolescence in technology'. He mentioned the case of a public sector unit which had built up inventories worth Rs. 3 crores in items which it did not need.

In his presidential address, Dr. V. Shanmugasundaram, Professor of Economics, University of Madras, urged that there should be a greater rationale in the production for export. PTI reports.

Mr. L. K. Jha said today that the public sector should be governed by a well-considered price policy which is fair alike to the producer and the consumer.

As a rule, he said, in price fixation whether of power, steel or fertilizers, the interests of the consumers received much more consideration than fairness to the producers.

While no one would suggest that the public industries should be allowed to fleece the consumer, the reverse of it would be equally objectionable.

Mr. Jha pointed out that while the private sector industries were free to sell their products at any price they liked except where Government im-

posed price control, the public sector was required to follow the pricing policy laid down by the Government.

He said as a rule, prices should be left free from direct control and be regulated by ensuring adequacy of supply relative to demand.

If, on grounds of public policies, prices had to be administered and not left free to find their own level, care should be taken to ensure that the price fixed was reasonably remunerative, he said.

Additional imports: In the first of the alternatives, Mr. Jha suggested additional imports suitably dutied to protect the domestic industry be permitted when production fell short of demand. If that was not possible, the increase in profits of indigenous produce could be either turned into more resources for expanding production or discouraged by excise duties directly accruing to the exchequer.

If administered prices became necessary, the price formula should not aim at giving a fixed return on capital but at rewarding a unit which could keep down costs and show greater efficiency.

The return to inefficiently run units would be lower, even negative, he said.

Unremunerative prices: Mr. Jha said unfortunately all too often under pressure from major consumers — sometimes Government departments — and sometimes the general public — unremunerative prices were fixed in effect, subsidisation was involved.

He urged that the burden of price subsidisation should be borne directly and visibly by the exchequer and not concealed in the balance-sheet of public sector undertakings.

There could then be a meaningful debate on its quantum and justification. Such scrutiny was not possible if it was shown as trading loss of individual undertakings.

What was worse, inefficiency and waste would remain undetected.

Mr Jha also cautioned that one consequence of administered prices would be generation of black money by middlemen where the end product did not go to the consumer directly.

While the producer lost, the consumer had to pay black-market prices. This situation was recently exemplified by steel prices.

Efficiency, the aim: He said State supervision of public sector pricing was fully justified when the undertakings like air services enjoyed monopolistic status. But it was important to get the focus right. It should be aimed not at curtailing profits per se or fixing particular returns but ensuring efficiency. An electricity undertaking having poor capacity utilisation could not be allowed to improve its earnings by raising rates.

Mr Jha called for a comprehensive review of the personnel policy for the public sector and the extent of delegation of authority to the management.

The prime determinant to profits should be efficiency of management which barring some very bright exceptions had tended to be poor in the public sector.

Better pay for the deserving: He suggested better payment for public sector managers, not necessarily modelled after the scales for civil servants, to attract talent. Their "security" should however be reduced and those who fail should be sacked.

Motivated criticism: Mr Jha prefaced his speech by calling for rejection of motivated criticism of the public sector, especially from those in the private sector who were not reconciled to its growing role. The private sector got a filip from expansion of the public sector, he pointed out.

CSO: 4220/7245

DAS MUNSHI REELECTED BENGAL CONGRESS-S PRESIDENT

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 81 p 3

[Text]

THE West Bengal Pradesh Congress (S) on Saturday unanimously re-elected Mr Priya Ranjan Das Munshi president of the State unit, and strongly recommended to the central leadership that the party's separate identity be preserved. In fact, nearly all the 391 members of the Pradesh Congress Committee who had attended the general body meeting in Calcutta felt that the party should not be merged with any other organization. They authorized Mr Das Munshi to oppose any such move in the party's central working committee meeting, which begins in Bombay on Saturday.

Mr Das Munshi, who briefed reporters later said that the general consensus at the meeting was that the ideals of the old Congress—self-reliant economic policy and internal party democracy—should be preserved. Members were opposed to merger with other Opposition parties whose policies and programmes were either ambiguous or lacked socialist bias.

The PCC recommended that the party be renamed Indian National Congress (Socialist). The West Bengal leaders of the party would place the PCC's proposal before the Bombay session for approval.

Mr Das Munshi said that there were fundamental differences between his party and the Congress (I). There was no internal democracy in the Congress (I) and everything depended on the whims and fancies of Mrs Gandhi. The aberrations of the Congress (I) in formulating and implementing various programmes were becoming increasingly glaring. Mrs Gandhi had deviated from her

policy of economic self-reliance and was encouraging huge imports to the benefit of the business community.

Mr Das Munshi said that since the time he had taken charge of the Pradesh Congress, erosion in support for the party in the State had not only been stemmed but the organization had been revitalized in many districts. He claimed that the party had 75,000 members who were possibly best organized in Burdwan district and in south Calcutta.

The PCC Chief alleged that during the past one month, CPI(M) workers had assaulted some leaders and workers of the Opposition parties. He cited as example his party leader in Andul having been recently beaten up by CPI(M) activists in the presence of the police.

Mr Das Munshi complained that the law and order situation in North Bengal districts, especially in Malda, West Dinajpur, and Darjeeling, was fast deteriorating. In the Harirampur area of West Dinajpur, 21 murders had taken place during the past one year. During his recent visit to the district, he had found people in the villages maintaining a night-long vigil.

Mr Das Munshi announced that the PCC had supported Mr Antony's decision to quit the Kerala Ministry and said that the CPI(M)'s "narrow and sectarian" policy was to be blamed for this. The experiment of Left democratic unity in Kerala had been nipped in the bud by "CPI(M)'s intolerant attitude" towards the other parties. If the Kerala Ministry was forced to resign, the CPI(M) should blame itself for that.

PUBLIC SECTOR GIVEN FREE HAND TO BUY SHIPS

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Oct 81 p 7

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Oct. 12

In a bid to cut delays, the Shipping Ministry has decided to allow the public sector shipping companies a free hand in the negotiations for purchase of ships.

The Shipping and Transport Minister, Mr. Veerendra Patil told newsmen today he will soon approach the Union Cabinet for the approval of the new procedure.

He said it was proposed that, the Government approve at one stroke the ship acquisition programme of a particular company and leave it free to negotiate with ship builders for buying vessels. At present, Cabinet sanction was necessary for every individual ship to be acquired by a shipping company.

Mr. Patil said his Ministry would approach the Public Investment Board later this month for its consent for the acquisition of 2.5 million gmt more tonnage in the public sector during the Sixth Plan. The proposal would go to the Cabinet for approval.

He said the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) would acquire 47 vessels and the Mogul Line 20 until 1985. Ship builders from Japan, South Korea, the United Kingdom, East Germany, Spain and Portugal have already approached the two companies for building ships.

Offers of the foreign shipyards were being scrutinised by shipping companies. Initially, it was proposed that the SCI would buy 21 ships and the Mogul Line 11.

The public sector tonnage of 2.5 million gmt was 55 per cent of the total tonnage to be acquired in the Sixth Plan.

its previous contract, which ended in February this year, was for managing the port. It had earned about Rs. 3 crores in foreign exchange.

For the second successive year, the DCI has declared dividend. Its Chairman and Managing Director, Captain S. K. Somayajulu, today handed over to Mr. Veerendra Patil a Rs. 1.12-crore cheque — the dividend for 1980-81 at four per cent. Its net profit stood at Rs. 3.7 crores.

The Chairman told newsmen that the DCI's turnover in 1980-81 was the highest ever at Rs. 25.48 crores as against Rs. 20.92 crores in the previous year, marking an increase of 21.8 per cent.

Capt. Somayajulu said during the year the Corporation salvaged an un-loader grab crane that sank at Haldia port 12.19 metres deep. Only limited technical assistance was obtained from abroad.

In the Sixth Plan, the DCI planned to procure two trailer suction hopper dredgers of 4,500 and 3,000 cubic metres costing Rs. 37 crores, he said.

It had earlier acquired rock drilling and blasting equipment worth Rs. 89 lakhs. A contract for drilling, blasting and removal of hard rock at Tuticorin was being executed.

Capt. Somayajulu said the DCI had formulated plans for developing an inland dredging wing for undertaking dredging of inland waterways, reservoirs and intake canals of thermal power stations — UN.

RAJIV: CENTER SHOULD NOT INTERFERE IN STATE AFFAIRS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] Itanagar, October 12 (PTI)

Mr Rajiv Gandhi, MP, has said the fate of the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr A. R. Antulay, should be decided by the Pradesh Congress committee (I) and the state legislature early.

Talking to newsmen here last night, he expressed the view that the Centre should not directly interfere in the state affairs.

Asked about Mr Antulay's trip to Delhi when the Prime Minister was abroad and the chief minister's prolonged talks with him, Mr Gandhi said it was necessary to stop the signature campaign by party members and legislators in Maharashtra.

Most of the secessionist movements in the north-eastern region and in other parts of the country, including the demand for Khalistan, were being supported by foreign powers, according to Mr Gandhi.

Lack of communication in the region had created a sense of psychological isolation and kept away a part of it from the national mainstream, he said.

Stressing that anti-national activities in the region should be tackled with considerable wisdom, Mr Gandhi said political parties and bureaucrats should make efforts to defuse tension and work with more dedication and patriotism.

He suggested that it would be better if they could identify themselves with the "real problems" of the people, as it would be counter-productive if the people lost their traditional and cultural identities.

Mr Gandhi said that reservation for scheduled caste and scheduled tribes should be helpful in bringing these sections at par with the other sections of society.

Asked in what way he was helping his mother, Mr Gandhi said he had been helping her at the party level without interfering in the functioning of the government. He had been apprising her also of the aspirations of the people and sometimes helped in resolving party problem, he added.

Mr Gandhi today inaugurated the "Sanjay Gandhi eye clinic programme" at the local Mahila Imdad Bhavan. Emphasising that it was the solemn duty of every citizen to work for the uplift of society, Mr Gandhi regretted that instead most people complained against the government saying that it was not doing anything for them.

NANDURBAR BYELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR 29 NOVEMBER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Oct 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, October 12 (UNI)--By-elections to 16 assembly seats and one Lok Sabha seat (Nandurbar in Maharashtra) in eight states will be held on November 29.

Announcing this, the chief election commissioner, Mr S. L. Shaktiher said that the commission had also asked the Rajasthan government to furnish certain clarifications for holding by-election in the Bayana parliamentary constituency in November itself.

Already an announcement had been made with regard to repoll in the Garhwal parliamentary constituency on November 22.

In all, there are at present vacancies for 17 Lok Sabha and 35 assembly seats.

Mr Shaktiher said the by-election to the Sagar parliamentary constituency and an assembly seat in Madhya Pradesh would be held in December.

The following is the programme for holding by-elections on November 29: Issue of notifications October 30; last date for filing nominations November 6, scrutiny November 7; withdrawal November 9; and poll November 29.

There are two vacancies in Himachal Pradesh. As the general election to the state assembly is due in May-June, 1982, the commission has decided not to have by-elections now.

Similarly, in view of the impending general election to the Nagaland assembly next year, the commission has decided not to have by-elections to the two assembly seats there.

The commission has not taken any decision with regard to one vacancy in the Punjab assembly because of the disturbed political situation in that state.

In view of the delicate law and order situation in Mizoram, the commission is of the view that it was not possible to have by-elections to four assembly seats in the Union territory at present.

PTI adds: Mr Shaktiher told PTI in an interview that the by-elections to the Lok Sabha would be held also from Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, Bayana in Rajasthan.

Mr Shakhder said the electronic voting machines and identity cards would not be pressed into service in the ensuing by-elections.

The commission had placed orders with the Electronics Corporation of India Limited and the Bharat Electronics Corporation for 300 electronic voting machines. They would be available early next year.

Regarding identity cards, Mr Shakhder said besides Meghalaya, a number of other states had also taken interest to introduce identity cards to the voters. But it would take some time, he added.

CSO: 4220/7243

CASE AGAINST MAHARASHTRA CHIEF MINISTER EXPLAINED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 13 Oct 81 p 4

[Text] Bombay, October 12. The plea that his case against the Maharashtra chief minister Mr A. R. Antulay, alleging commission of offences under sections 420 and 384, sections 161 and 165 of the I.P.C. and section 5 of the prevention of corruption act, and sections 109 and 120 B of the I.P.C. be withdrawn from the metropolitan magistrate's court and tried by the high court is made in a petition filed in the Bombay high court by Mr Ramdas S. Nayak, a BJP worker.

The case is presently in the court of the metropolitan magistrate, 28th court, Esplanade, and the magistrate, after hearing submissions of the rival sides on the maintainability of Mr Nayak's complaint, ruled that the complaint, was maintainable insofar as offences under sections 420 and 384 of the I.P.C. were concerned and that it was not maintainable in regard to the other offences alleged against Mr Antulay, Mr Nayak has challenged this order.

In support of his plea that the case should be tried by the high court itself, the petitioner submitted that a constitutional issue of great importance arose in the proceedings and that it required to be determined by the high court.

Since the magistrate had held that sanction under section 6 of the anticorruption act was required, the petitioner said this raised "constitutional controversies of grave public importance" which required to be resolved by the high court.

Among the issues required to be so resolved were, according to the petitioner, whether the power to grant or refuse sanction under section 6 vested in the governor under article 154 of the constitution; whether the governor could use this power independently of the advice of his council of ministers; whether the chief minister could be excluded from the "advisory process" contemplated by article 164; and whether the chief minister could partake in the advice "in the matter of sanction of his own prosecution."

The petitioner also wanted the high court to consider and to decide whether the chief minister could by virtue of his office "prevent his own prosecution for grave crimes" without infringing the provisions contained in articles 14 and 21 of the constitution. A further question that would fall for the high court's decision would be whether the magistrate's interpretation of section 6 of the anti-corruption act was intra vires or ultra vires the constitution and whether the section could be "saved from the vice of unconstitutionality" by an interpretation that would "avoid the unjust, arbitrary and absurd" result.

After contending that the magistrate failed to appreciate the case-law cited before him, the petitioner, who said he had "great respect" for the magistrate, expressed his apprehension that in the facts and circumstances of the case the magistrate might "well be inhibited" in discharging his duties "fearlessly."

The petitioner said: "The accused is a chief minister and he has in his public pronouncements attacked the judiciary. He has created the impression of being vindictive. Two judges of the court (Mr Masodkar and Mr Aggarwal) are associated with the accused (Mr Antulay) as co-trustees and they have been cited as witnesses. "Hearing of the matter by the high court, it was submitted, "will avoid embarrassment to all concerned" as "difficult questions of law and fact may well arise at every stage."

Mr Justice C. S. Dharmadhikari and Mr Justice S. W. Puranik today admitted the petition for hearing and made the rule returnable by November 9.

The judges who directed issue of notice to the attorney-general also stayed, by way of interim relief, "further proceedings" in the magistrate's court.

Mr Ram Jethmalani with Mr T. Ajwani and Mr S. B. Keswani appeared for the petitioner; and Mr M. R. Kotwal, public prosecutor, represented the state.

CSO: 4220/7243

ANDHRA PRADESH CHIEF MINISTER INTERVIEWED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 81 p 6

[Interview with Mr T. Anjiah, chief minister, date and place not given]

[Text] It has been truly an eventful year in office for the Chief Minister, Mr T. Anjiah, as it has been quite a hectic one for all those who keep going the wheels of administration.

An eventful year indeed, packed with packages of concessions to farmers, weaker sections and people in general costing the exchequer hundreds of crores; year of momentous decisions with far-reaching impact on the economic upliftment of millions, termed scheduled castes scheduled tribes, and backward classes and who else?

In brief, during this short period in office, the worker-Chief Minister, Anjiah, has accomplished a good job. He has accounted for a sizable turnover for the welfare of the weaker sections, agricultural labour and working class in particular, and other sections of the down-trodden, as no other who preceded him in office could.

And more than anything else, credit goes to Mr Anjiah for setting the wheels of democratic institutions at the grass root level in motion again after a lapse of more than a decade--by holding elections, to Panchayat Raj and Municipal bodies, which have been almost defunct for several years.

With all these and several other achievements to his credit, Chief Minister, Mr Anjiah can proudly look forward to carry on the job with greater sense of confidence to lead Andhra Pradesh State, which crosses the silver jubilee year into a 'Golden era,' on November 1.

But what does Mr Anjiah himself feel and about it, on completing one year in office as Chief Minister? One would be naturally interested to know.

'How do you feel you played part?' editor of ANDHRA PRADESH JOURNAL, therefore, asked the Chief Minister.

It was past midnight--generally the time when the Chief Minister completes his 'day's' work of disposing of the files.

He had just disposed of the last file of the 'day'--the number--some (eight) thousand and odd since he assumed office, a special assistant said.

Only after completing the 'day's' work the Chief Minister could feel relaxed to talk to the press, perhaps 'his style of respite.'

Mr Anjiah is not a man given to beat his own trumpet; he is too modest to claim all the credit for himself for the achievements during the last one year. 'In my humble way, I have been in the service of the people, and I owe it to my leader Indiraji,' he says.

His loyalty to Mrs Gandhi is not of recent origin; his loyalty to the leader has been unflicking for the last three decades. And to him, the 25-point programme (Mrs Gandhi's 20-points and Sanjay Gandhi's five points) is the shee-anchor of development now. [as published]

But then what about the machinery to implement the welfare programme? How could he get the bureaucracy to implement them?

To this, the answer was creation of a task force in various departments to periodically review and ensure implementation of the Chief Minister's assurances and execution of developmental activities. Not only that. A task force to suggest methods of tightening administrative machinery to check corrupt practices and suggest personnel suitable for different departments of importance has been constituted headed by the Chief Secretary. It consists of Second Secretary for Revenue, Principal Secretary, Finance and Planning, and Home Secretary. And now that democratic institutions are restored at various levels, 'we are fixing targets for the time-bound programmes and entrusting the work to the Panchayat Raj bodies.'

As regards distribution of essential commodities, he said, the people's committees at taluk and district level have been constituted to advise the tahsildar and the collector. The committee consists of the concerned MP, MLA, MLC, and nominees of recognised political parties. They will advise not only on distribution of essential commodities at taluk level and at the district level but also on planning and execution of drought schemes. A similar committee has been constituted at the state level.

With the restoration of the Panchayat Raj and Civic bodies, the Chief Minister hoped for more active involvement of the people in execution of the developmental programmes.

Primarily a worker--Chief Minister, Mr Anjiah has undoubtedly provided a better deal to workers factory and farm hands.

A committee was appointed for implementation of minimum wages for the unorganised labour with Sardar S. Nagappa as its chairman. A policy decision also was taken that the minimum wage of an unskilled worker should not be less than Rs 7.70 ps per day, or Rs 231 a month, and correspondingly the wages in other categories of workers are also to be fixed.

Recently, 43 Assistant Labour Officers were appointed exclusively for effective implementation of minimum wages in agriculture, and four Assistant Labour Officers for hidi and cigar establishments.

A child labour committee was constituted to inquire into the problems of child labour and to suggest effective steps for redressal.

For the first time, an employment guarantee scheme has been introduced in select blocks, to provide employment to agricultural labour during off-season. And for amelioration of conditions of working journalists and non-journalist employees in newspaper industry, a special cell has been created to oversee implementation of the Palekar award. The Chief Minister claimed that in as many as 20 newspaper establishments, the award was implemented in toto.

As per the weaker sections, the Chief Minister explained various measures taken for their welfare. The measures include increase of the budget allotment from Rs 42 crores in 1980-81 to Rs 47 crores in 1981-82, additional provision made under old-age pension scheme; allotment of house-sites; allotment of Rs 52 crores under special component plan for the benefit of scheduled castes in the current year etc.

Under the Prime Minister's scheme to help scheduled caste families to cross poverty line, in the current year, it was proposed to cover 1.19 lakh scheduled caste families in the State. The scheduled caste Finance Corporation has drawn up 157 model schemes to serve as a guide to prospective beneficiaries. By the end of March, 1981, about 53,800 families have been benefited at an aggregate outlay of Rs 17.56

crores.

Andhra Pradesh is the first State in the country to take up the programme of insurance of huts of weaker sections. The scheme intended to benefit hutment dwellers in all Municipal towns in the first instance, covers all hutments with insurance against losses from fire, riots, malicious damage etc. It was proposed to extend the scheme to the villages also in due course.

And if Mr Anjiah can take credit for several 'firsts', the credit also goes to the worker Chief Minister for introducing crop insurance scheme in the predominantly agricultural State of Andhra Pradesh.

The crop insurance scheme, he explained, has been introduced during Kharif 1981 in 25 taluks for paddy, 10 taluks for Jowar and 5 taluks for groundnut. The State Government is participating as co-insurer in the Scheme sharing premium as well as claims to the extent of 25 per cent.

To the farmers who are affected by drought or cyclone alternately, the crop insurance scheme should prove a great boon.

The Chief Minister refuted the complaint often made that he had constituted for too many corporations. On the other hand, he asserted, that he had constituted only 2 or 3 new corporations: (i) The Hyderabad Old City Development Authority and (ii) Corporation for the Physically Handicapped. While the first one was created to pay special attention for the development of the old city which has been often a centre of troubles, the second one was created as part of the international year of the handicapped. And what is objectionable about it, he asked.

There is a general impression that the Chief Minister can never say 'no' to any one. Is it correct, he was asked. Far from it, he said, and added that he had known the common people so intimately that he could feel the pulse of the people, understand their feelings and grievances. 'They too have the capacity to understand me. It is, therefore, not correct to say that I conceded whatever they asked for. If it is only justifiable and reasonable, I agree to consider it sympathetically'.

Essentially a man of masses, the Chief Minister receives representations from the people by hundreds everyday. Representations thus received since he became Chief Minister run into several thousands. They are sorted out and sent to the complaints cell set up in the GAD, in May, 1978. It has been in a dormant state until he reactivated the entire machinery now functioning under the Chief Secretary.

The cell after monitoring the complaints sends them to the concerned departments at the Secretariat for immediate action. But if the complaints are strictly local in nature, they are sent to the district collector for follow-up action.

But on complaints regarding atrocities against Harijans, the Chief Minister said: 'we have decided to order judicial enquiry in all fatal cases'.

As a first step in this direction he has already ordered judicial enquiry by a retired judge of the High Court into a case of alleged burning of a Harijan family in Karimnagar following the recent civic poll there. The judicial enquiry is now in progress. And the Chief Minister is as good as his word.

ANDHRA PRADESH PROGRESS IN ECONOMIC PROGRAM

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 81 p 8

[passages in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] The Prime Minister's 20-Point Economic Programme is the back bone of development programmes in the State. Implemented with substantial budgetary support over the past few years it has enabled development of specific programmes for the upliftment of the large masses of weaker sections, speedy exploitation of land and water resources, absorption in abundant measure of institutional finances, serving of consumers and catering to the requirements of the bulk of the population. Reciprocally it has raised hopes and aspirations throughout the State which has not only resulted in demand for increased attention to problems everywhere but also secured the involvement of the people in tackling local problems and securing for themselves as communities as well as individuals, benefits out of the variety of measures formulated for their economic strength and welfare.

It is necessary to recall the 20-Point Economic Programme in its entirety in order to appreciate the individual importance of those segments in the overall programme. As the essence of the programme is speedy growth but in such balanced manner as not only to prevent impoverishment and neglect in the process but positively remove poverty and assist the weak to share in the prosperity. The State has kept up its name as the granary of the South despite cyclones of the drought over the last few years. The farming community of the State has the distinction of being in the forefront in adopting modern farm technology to boost food production.

Investment in agriculture and irrigation and extension activity have created dependable potential on the food front and capacity to meet shortages on account of droughts of the type currently being experienced. It has also assisted in activity of various types resulting in improved employment, larger spread of prosperity, welfare measures and new look to the countryside.

As a result of the effective measures taken and implementation of different agricultural programmes, the foodgrains production is expected to touch 102-00 lakh tonnes during 1980-81 inspite of the severe drought that affected 14 districts and the ravages of flood in Srikakulam district, as against about 95 lakh tonnes in 1979-80. The foodgrains production during Kharif Season is estimated to be on par with 1978-79 Kharif, a record year of production. The production of Kharif Rice as per the preliminary estimates fo the Bureau of Economics

and Statistics is 53.32 lakh tonnes which has exceeded the production in 1978-79 and a new record has been set up on account of exceedingly good crop harvested in coastal districts.

20-Point Economic Programme

/Continuance of steps to bring down the prices of essential commodities, streamline production, procurement and distribution of essential commodities, strict economy in Government expenditure./

The State Government has made arrangements to distribute essential commodities like rice, wheat, edible oils, sugar and kerosene at fixed prices through a network of about 25,322 fair price shops throughout the State. About 42,000 tonnes of rice is being released every month through fair price shops. Sugar distribution has been streamlined, so that it is available to the public at controlled prices uninterruptedly. To pay undivided attention to the timely supply of essential commodities at fair price, Government of Andhra Pradesh has recently set up the Andhra Pradesh Essential Commodities Corporation.

Prices of Agricultural Commodities play a vital role in stabilising Agricultural Production. The need for remunerative prices for different Agricultural Produce has been accepted and Government of India have been announcing minimum support prices or procurement price to benefit the cultivators. For the year 1980-81, Government of India announced the procurement prices of Rs 105 per quintal for common variety of paddy, Rs 109 for fine variety and Rs 113 for superfine variety as against Rs 130 for common variety recommended by the State Government with a differential of Rs 7 for fine and Rs 8 for superfine varieties. Having considered the procurement prices fixed by Government of India not adequately remunerative to the growers, the State Government enhanced them by Rs 10 for each variety. The rates fixed by the State Government are Rs 115 for common variety, Rs 119 for fine and Rs 123 for superfine varieties. From the Rabi Season of 1980-81, Rs 10 more per quintal is being paid in respect of superfine variety. These enhanced procurement rates will enable the farmers to produce more.

/Implementation of agricultural land ceilings and speedier distribution of surplus land and compilation of land records./

Due to the vigorous implementation of land reforms in the State, an extent of 4.21 lakh acres surplus land had been taken over so far. Out of this an extent of 2,93,346 acres was assigned to landless poor. The number of beneficiaries totalled 2,03,464 out of whom 1,00,668 belong to Scheduled Castes, 30,184 to Scheduled Tribes and 59,060 to Backward Classes and 13,552 to other landless poor persons.

/Stepping up of provisions of house-sites for landless and weaker sections./

The scheme of provision of house-sites envisages the grant of house-sites free of cost to eligible persons i.e. those belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and other economically weaker sections of the society.

So far house-sites have been provided to about 13,28,443 beneficiaries belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Economically Backward Groups. Private land to an extent of 59,992-75 acres was acquired up to 1980-81 and an extent of 22,624-38 acres of Government land also was assigned. So far an amount of Rs 36.21 crores was spent on the acquisition of house-sites by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

/Bonded labour, wherever it exists, will be declared illegal./

Special schemes of rehabilitation of released bonded labour has ensured opportunities of new life to 6,803 families. This has resulted in adequate remuneration for agricultural work to those engaged freely in it and alternative opportunities for those who had been subjected to harassment and condemned bondage. A sum of Rs 20 lakhs was provided in the current year Budget to take up schemes for rehabilitation of bonded labour. This will be matched with an expected release of Rs 28 lakhs from the Government of India.

/Plan for liquidation of rural indebtedness, legislation for moratorium on recovery of debt from landless labourers, small farmers and artisans./

A sound beginning has been made in reducing indebtedness among the Tribal population, due to the strict enforcement of the Scheduled Tribes Debt Relief Regulation, 1960 and the enactment of the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Indebtedness (Relief) Act, 1977. Increased Institutional support, together with release and rehabilitation of bonded labour and enforcement of land legislation has ensured the reduction of the menace of money lending and exploitation of the economically weak.

/Five million more hectares to be brought under irrigation National Programme for use of ground water./

As a part of bringing additional area under irrigation, technical clearance was given to 53,000 bore-well/tube well/filter points, 2,39,981 dug-wells 407633 pumpsets and development of 1,68,776 old wells together valued at Rs 330 crores for implementation by the Andhra Pradesh Cooperative Central Agricultural Development Bank and other financial institutions. The programme on implementation will bring in additional area of about 8 lakh hectares of irrigated dry under assured ground water irrigation.

With the fillip given by the Institutional finance and through various developmental agencies and with the present rate of construction of about 30,000 dry wells, 300 public tube-wells and energisation of 40,000 wells, an additional irrigation potential of about 50,000 hectares will be created annually, spreading widely and in particular among farmers of uplands, connected benefits.

/An accelerated power programme--Super thermal stations under Central Control./

The Super Thermal Power Station at Ramagundam at an estimated cost of Rs 459.14 crores for the power project and Rs 116.14 crores for the construction of 400 K.V. transmission lines was approved by the Union Government. This has enabled not only promise of further industrialisation but expansion of coal industry resulting in additional high wage employment to large numbers of skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled persons supported by further welfare measures. With

the addition of the recently commenced 2nd unit of Vijayawada Thermal Station the installed capacity of power in the State has risen to 2,198 MW.

The State Government has agreed to provide Infrastructural facilities like roads, water supply, temporary buildings, etc. and the works are under progress. The power station is expected to be completed during the year 1984-85.

/New development plan for development of handloom sector./

To provide impetus to the Handloom Industry as a part of the 20-point programme, Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken a number of measures like administering as many weavers as possible into cooperatives, modernisation and replacement of looms to facilitate production of various types of fabrics, and enable the weavers to earn better wages.

In the recent years, these measures introduced have been intensified with matching assistance from Government of India.

As a result of these measures the following achievements have been recorded in the recent past.

(i) The number of societies have increased from 1,024 in 1976 to 1928 in 1980-81. The coverage of looms by Cooperative Sector has increased from 2.25 lakhs to 3.40 lakhs.

(ii) Paid-up share capital of societies has increased from Rs 231 crores to Rs 11.72 crores.

(iii) Based on the share capital the working capital of the institutions has gone up from Rs 3.45 crores to Rs 20.36 crores.

(iv) The production of cloth recorded an increase of 300% from Rs 11.30 crores to Rs 36 crores. Sales of Handloom cloth has touched a level of Rs 30.00 crores from a mere Rs 7.75 crores in 1975-76.

(v) Infrastructure facilities towards pre-loom and post-loom have been provided with an investment of Rs 345 lakhs by State Government.

(vi) The institutions in the Textile Industry of the State have exported garments and fabrics worth Rs 257 lakhs to foreign countries.

(vii) The cooperative spinning mills have increased the yarn production from 25,000 bales to 45,000 bales per annum. 6 more new spinning mills are coming up in cooperative sector to increase yarn production. A polyester yarn manufacturing unit in the cooperative sector, first of its kind, is coming up in the State.

(viii) Modernisation of looms has been taken up at a cost of Rs 102.00 lakhs aiming at diversification of production and ensuring more remunerative wages to weavers.

/Improvement in quality and supply of people's clothes./

With production of Janata cloth of 33 million sq. mts. achieved through quick support of weavers there is not only an assurance of abundant supply of reasonably priced cloth but also employment continuously for the weavers.

/New schemes for workers association in industry./

The scheme of workers' participation in Management was introduced as a part of 20-point economic programme of the Prime Minister. In Andhra Pradesh State the scheme was made applicable to the units where 300 or more workers are employed. Out of 190 establishments, only 147 establishments are employing 300 or more workers. Of these 190 establishments, 137 have formed shop floor/plant level councils.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh considered that there should be legislation for constituting the Shop Floor and Plant Level Councils. Accordingly a draft bill was prepared by the Sub-Committee of the State Labour Advisory Board and it is being placed before the Board for a final decision before a legislation is undertaken. The salient features of the proposed Bill are:

- (i) It applies to every factory or undertaking where one hundred or more workmen are employed;
- (ii) It applies to every establishment in which 25 or more employees are employed;
- (iii) Every factory undertaking to which this Act applies shall constitute a shop-council in each department or shop or one council for more than one department or shop considering the number of workmen employed in different departments or shops;
- (iv) Every employee or every factory/undertaking which is covered by this Act shall constitute a Plant Council for each unit;
- (v) Functions of Shop Council: The shop council should in the interest of increasing the production, productivity service and the overall efficiency of the shops/departments.
- (vi) Functions of the Plant Council: To achieve optimum production, efficiency and fixation of productivity norms of man and machine for the unit as a whole, etc.
- (vii) It provides for the enforcement machinery to enforce the provisions of the Act with necessary penal provisions for nonimplementation of the provisions of the Act.

/National Permit Scheme for road transport./

With a view to encourage long distance Inter-State road transport, the Government of India promulgated an Ordinance in 1976 by amending the Motor Vehicles Act and made provision for grant of National Permits. Under this scheme this

State was allocated 900 permits. Sub-sections (11.A) and (11.b) of Section 63 of the M.V. Act provides for reservation of certain percentage of national permits for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for economically weaker sections of the community.

/Books and stationery at controlled prices./

With supply of note books to students of the value of Rs 2.87 crores this year the Andhra Pradesh State Trading Corporation has enabled students to secure quality stationery at low cost.

/New apprenticeship scheme to enlarge employment and training especially of weaker sections./

Apprenticeship training is being implemented in Andhra Pradesh with a view to provide job-training facility to ITI trained candidates and other unemployed youths. At present 4,378 candidates are undergoing training in the State and private sector establishments. Out of them 401 are S.Cs, 47 belong to Sts, and 17 physically handicapped. A majority of the apprentices have secured suitable jobs or started their own units after successful completion of training. In addition to the apprentices of the State Sector, there are about 3320 apprentices undergoing apprenticeship training in Central Sector establishments. About 902 Diploma and Degree holders are lakhs of seedlings of tree species also receiving training as apprentices. These two categories are under the control of Central Government. (as published)

216 types of industries have so far been notified under the Apprentices Act 1961 and 136 trade have been designated so far. The period of training ranges from 6 months to 4 years.

5-Point Programme

/Social Forestry Programmes in Andhra Pradesh/

Make India Green Programme:

A programme to raise 115 lakhs of seedlings of tree species for distributing, free of cost, to the rural people for planting them on private lands is being implemented. This includes raising of about 40 lakhs seedlings under Farm Forestry in Drought Prone Areas Programme districts.

Mixed Plantations Programme:

This scheme is being implemented during 1981-82 at a cost of Rs 95.5 lakhs. This includes raising Babul, Ka-babul and other plantations in the foreshores of tanks and community lands. The babul plantations raised in the tank foreshores will be maintained by the Forest Department. The benefits are to be shared on 50:50 basis by the Village Panchayat and Forest Department, when the trees are harvested at maturity.

Rural Fuelwood Plantation Programme:

Five districts viz., Krishna, Guntur, Nalgonda Ranga Reddy and Medak have been selected for implementation of this programme in the State at a cost of Rs 76.30 lakhs during 1981-82. The Central assistance is forthcoming to the extent of 50 per cent of the cost of the scheme. Plantations of Eucalyptus, Babul, Kubabul and Bamboo are being raised over an extent of 3690 hectares.

Shelter-Belt Programme:

Shelter belt plantations of Casuarina are proposed to be raised over a length of 8650 row Kilometers (1770 hectares) along the coast during 1981-82.

Social Forestry Programmes:

Government are giving very high priority for undertaking extensive Social Forestry Programmes in view of its paramount importance and urgency for restoring ecological balance as well as to meet the fuel wood needs of the rural people and cellulose need of the wood-based industries and also to meet the various other social needs of communities like small timber etc. With a view to see that forestry crosses its erstwhile conventional boundaries confined to well established reserve forests areas, and step out to the people in the rural areas and also to the people in all walks of life like school children, industrial workers and households, Government have constituted a State Level Committee with Chief Minister as Chairman to help formulate district master plan for social forestry and review the progress. District Level Social Forestry Committee with District Collector as Chairman, with district officers and MPs, MLAs and voluntary organisations, has been constituted for tree plantation work on Community lands, Panchayat lands, Village waste lands, Private lands, Canal banks, School premises and Farm holdings. Forest Department is implementing the Social Forestry Schemes during 1981-82.

Scheme for Raising Fuelwood and Small Timber Trees on Private Lands:

A scheme which was posed to Government of India and on which orders are awaited is the scheme under Drought Prone Areas Programme/Integrated Rural Development Programme. It envisages growing of eucalyptus trees on the rainfed, marginal and submarginal lands of small and marginal farmers. 50 per cent of the cost of the scheme is being proposed to be provided as subsidy, besides supplying the seedlings free of cost. A hectare of eucalyptus plantation provides a substantial income of about Rs 10,000/- after a period of 7 years after repaying the loan. This will help the small and marginal farmer to improve his economic status.

Adult Education

In pursuance of the policy decision of the Government of India in 1977, a massive programme was launched to cover 10 million illiterate population in the State in the age group of 15 to 35 within five years. The National Adult Education Programme was formally launched in Andhra Pradesh on 2nd October, 1978. For implementing the programme, a Directorate of Adult Education was set up. During

the year 1979-80, 23 Adult Education projects of 300 centres each enrolling 30 learners at a centre were started. They were located one each for each of the 22 districts (except Vizianagaram) and one additional project at Paderu. Generally, each project operates in one block of the district. In January, 1981, 150 centres in the existing blocks were dispersed to these contiguous blocks in the districts. Necessary training for the functionaries was also imparted.

CSO: 4220/7236

ANDHRA PRADESH TRIBAL WELFARE PROGRAM NOTED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 11 Oct 81 p 10

[Text]

ANDHRA Pradesh has a tribal population of 22.26 lakhs which constitutes 5.11% of the population of the State (1971). The scheduled area in the State extends over 30,031 sq. kms. which is about 11 per cent of the area of the State. Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Adilabad and Mahabubnagar are the districts having scheduled areas.

The tribal population in these nine districts is 14.05 lakhs. The remaining population of 8.21 lakhs is distributed in the other districts. There are 33 scheduled tribe communities in this State.

The tribal welfare programmes cover a wide range of activities as the aim is to remove all constraints in the way and help the tribal to join the mainstream of national life. Education is given great importance and the programmes under this sector envisage provision of incentives to students by way of free board and lodging, text books, note-books, clothing and scholarships. A scouting programme has also been introduced, as also a programme for spotting cultural talents. There are training programmes to improve the tribals' employment prospects.

ECONOMIC UPLIFT: On the economic uplift side, emphasis is on agriculture which is the main occupation of the tribal. This is followed by an effort to eliminate unscrupulous trad-

ers who exploit the tribals by purchasing minor forest produce collected by them on low rates and also by selling domestic requirements needed by them at high rates.

The Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance Corporation has been established to enable the tribals to draw upon institutional finances for their economic betterment. On the health side there is a programme for providing supplementary nutrition to pre-school children and expectant and nursing mothers. To insulate the tribal from the depredations of land grabbers and usurious money lenders, protective legislations have been enacted and are being implemented.

SUB-PLAN: Preparation of the Sub-Plan and the establishment of Integrated Tribal Development Agencies in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal and Adilabad and a special project for Chanchus living in Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Prakasam, Guntur, Kurnool and Mahabubnagar districts, Konda Reddis of Khammam, East and West Godavari districts and Kolams of Adilabad district, implementation of Modified Area Development Approach programmes in 17 identified pockets of tribal concentration represent our effort in tribal development.

EXPLOITATION CHECKED:

To afford protection to tribals interest in land and prevent exploitation by non-tribals, various protective legislations have been enacted. These are the Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Area Land Transfer Regulation, The Andhra Pradesh (Scheduled Areas) Money lenders Regulation and The Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes (Debt Relief) Regulation. The implementing machinery has been strengthened and loopholes in the laws plugged. The Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Areas Land Transfer Regulation, 1950 prohibits the transfer of land situated in Scheduled Areas to any one other than a member of the Scheduled Tribes. With a view to remove the persisting lacunae in the regulation and to facilitate effective implementation, the Regulation of 1950 was amended by Andhra Pradesh Regulation 1 of 1978. The amending regulation bars the registration of land transfer unless the transferee is a member of scheduled tribes. All offences under this regulation are made cognizable and are punishable with imprisonment up to one year or fine up to Rs 2,000 or both.

DEBT RELIEF REGULATION:

Under the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Indebtedness (Relief) Act, 1977 all the debts due by the agricultural labourers, rural artisans and small farmers in the State including the

scheduled tribes shall be deemed to be wholly discharged. In the cases not covered by the above Act, the debts of Scheduled Tribes in the scheduled areas are being scaled down under the provision of Andhra Pradesh (Scheduled Tribes) Debt Relief Regulation, to the level of principal extinguishing the interest element altogether.

STRATEGY OF DEVELOPMENT: The approach during the VI Plan period (1980-85) will be as follows: (i) Concentrate on areas outside the sub-plan and Modified Area Development Approach Project areas, as far as the State's Plan funds are concerned, to the maximum extent possible.

(ii) Step up provision for Andhra Pradesh Scheduled Tribes Cooperative Finance Corporation while reducing outlays on foot-loose economic support programmes. This is done with a view to mobilise the maximum possible institutional finances. Close liaison with the Departments of Forest and Rural Development Department and Special Employment Schemes should be maintained both at the policy and implementation levels for tapping subsidies and training and technical support so as to maximise resource mobilization.

(iii) Strengthen essential areas under education, like incentives for enrolment and continued attendance in schools established, ashram schools, construction of girls hostels, boys hostels and strengthening of training programmes etc. and

starting of a residential school in the Rayalaseema area.

(iv) Strengthening of the Tribal Cultural Research and Training Institute for research and monitoring purposes and build it into an institute of National stature to draw further assistance from various sources outside the State.

The strategy also will build into it appropriate allocations under relevant Plan heads to mobilise Central Assistance mobilisation of resources through financial institutions and through coordination with other departments, particularly the Forest and Rural Development Department which has with it not only the subsidies but supporting departments like Forest and Animal Husbandry which are of basic importance for tribal welfare.

The strategy would be family-based and poverty-line oriented with a view to plan the crossing of poverty-line by half the tribal families now below the poverty line, by the end of the VI Plan period.

New ideas like taking up extension forestry in blocks of lands belonging to tribals themselves or to be assigned where feasible, with bank finances and tie up with industrial buyers will be introduced as schemes during the VI Five Year Plan so that while the tribal may have other benefits given to him to provide him a living during a 5 to 7 year gestation period, at the end of the period he reaps a substantial income after paying back the bank loan.

NUMBER OF PERMANENT JUDGES' POSTS INCREASED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Oct 81 p 9

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 15 (PTI): The government has decided to increase the number of posts of permanent judges in various high courts keeping in view the load of work, the guidelines prescribed and other relevant considerations.

The Centre would take up the matter with various state governments who, after consulting the chief justices of the high courts, would send proposals for the conversion of a substantial number of posts of additional judges into those of permanent judges.

The government has also decided that ordinarily further appointments of additional judges would not be made for periods less than one year.

A note containing the government's decision was handed over to a seven-judge constitution bench of the supreme court hearing the judges transfer case this morning by Mr. P. R. Mridul counsel for the law minister. Mr. Mridul told the court the decisions had been taken at the "highest level".

The note, handed over by Mr. Mridul on behalf of the Union government, said in 1980 itself, on the basis of institution, disposal and arrears of cases and the guidelines prescribed, seven state governments, where the problem was more acute, had been asked to consider augmentation of the judge strength of their high courts.

CSO: 4220/7261

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES AID TO LEATHER INDUSTRY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Oct 81 p 10

[Text]

NEW DELHI, October 15.

THE government has decided to license additional capacity for production of finished leather on a selective basis.

Mr. N. D. Tiwari, Union industry ministry, said today the additional capacity would be licensed mostly (A) in favour of those states where no finishing capacity exists or where finishing capacity is inadequate, (B) for the establishment of common facility centres to help small tanners in converting their semi-finished leather into finished leather, and (C) in favour of small-scale units wanting to convert their semi-finished leather capacity into finished leather capacity.

Inaugurating a conference of state ministers and chairmen and managing directors of leather development corporations, Mr. Tiwari said states with a large cattle population would not be left behind in the development of the leather industry. The instrument of licensing would be used for correcting regional imbalances to the extent possible.

Mr. Tiwari said the Centre had taken important policy decisions to stimulate the development of leather footwear and leather goods industry, particularly for exports.

EXPORT OBLIGATION

For example, the export obligation on finished leather units had been brought down to 40 per cent from 60 to 90 per cent. The existing and new units would be eligible to take advantage of this decision.

Secondly, to encourage the creation of a substantial export-worthy capacity for leather footwear and leather goods, the organised sector had been permitted to establish capacity on the

basis of a minimum export of 70 per cent of production subject to certain conditions.

Thirdly, the position regarding export obligation by organised sector units for setting up capacity for the manufacture of items developed in the small-scale sector had been clarified. It would not be possible for such units to set up capacity on the basis of a minimum of 75 per cent exports to be achieved in three years.

Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, minister for commerce, told the conference that 84 per cent of India's total leather exports consisted of semi-finished and finished leather while the balance was accounted for by leather products. The policy accent of our export effort was on a progressive increase in exports of value-added items.

Mr. Mukherjee said a series of measures had been taken by the commerce ministry recently to increase exports in the leather sector. A sustained growth in the exports was possible only with a strong and stable domestic industrial base, supported by the necessary infrastructural facilities.

A small working group had been set up to work out a package of financial assistance needed for the leather industry, Mr. Mukherjee said.

Mr. Mukherjee said the export performance in leather in 1979-81 was fairly satisfactory, but the performance in 1980-81 suffered a setback due largely to an unprecedented international recession.

The export prospects were now getting better. During April-August 1981, the total exports of leather and leather products were of the order of Rs. 173.22 crores against Rs. 135.66 crores in the corresponding period of 1980.

SIKH COUNCIL SENDS MEMORANDUM TO GANDHI

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Oct 81 p 9

[Text]

CHANDIGARH, October 15.

THE Council of Sikh Affairs, a local organisation formed two years ago, has sent a memorandum to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, urging her to remove the grievances of the Sikhs and find a lasting solution by negotiating with the Sikh leaders.

The council said that the situation called for prompt action, as it feared that if the government and the Akali leaders continued to follow the present policies, the attitude on both sides might harden and would lead to communal disharmony.

Going into the history of the Sikh problem, the memorandum said it had several aspects. First, the Sikhs felt that they had a separate identity and entity which they wanted to preserve at all costs. The Sikhs had made tremendous sacrifices for the defence of the country, but they felt hurt when their demand for maintenance of their separate identity was considered disruptive of national integration.

The Sikhs, it pointed out, feared that under the garb of national integration, their identity was being eroded, weakened and an attempt was being made to absorb them into the Hindu culture. The Sikhs felt that the government was unnecessarily interfering in their religious affairs.

The memorandum cited the recent promulgation of an ordinance (later

enacted as an act), abolishing educational qualifications for office-bearers with the purpose of installing Jathedar Sansokh Singh as president of the Delhi Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee. Sending Sikh jathas to Pakistan to pilgrimage without consulting the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee constituted another "ill-advised interference."

As regards the state's demands for more water and electricity and utilisation of bank deposits, the Sikhs felt that they were not being treated fairly.

As for the demand for Khalistan, the memorandum said that it was confined to a few persons, and almost all responsible Sikh organisations had opposed it. It regretted that the ruling party, by giving undue publicity to it, probably thought that they would be able to secure the Hindu votes at all elections. But the ruling party did not realise that the step would boomerang on them.

The memorandum was against fanning the demand for Khalistan because, if the idea really percolated to the masses, it would become a movement.

It said that the concept of Khalistan was harmful and loaded with potential danger, more so for the Sikhs. To end the controversy, statesmanship and political sagacity were required.

CSO: 4220/7261

GUJARAT COAL GASIFICATION PROJECT APPROVED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Oct 81 p 15

[Text]

GANDHINAGAR, October 15: The Central government has approved a pilot project of the underground coal gasification (UCG) in the Kalol area of north Gujarat as one of the important programmes of the new source of energy in the state.

Disclosing this to reporters here today, the state finance and planning minister, Mr. Sanat Mehta said that the Union government had appointed a three-member committee to finalise the draft plan for UCG. The committee would consist of Dr. Indrajit Singh of the ONGC, Mr. S. D. Mehta, adviser to the Gujarat government, and Mr. B. Singh, director of the Central Mining Institute.

Mr. Mehta said that in the Kalol region alone, an estimated 60 billion to 80 billion tonnes of coal reserve had been found at the depth of 1,600 metres to 1,700 metres. The depth of lignite coal in north Gujarat was found at 1,000 to 1,200 metres. This deposit could be converted into gas through the latest technology of coal gasification.

On the basis of this, the state was

planning to set up a 1,500 MW power station by the end of the sixth plan. Mr. Mehta said that the Gujarat electricity board had been asked to prepare a blueprint for the project.

The finance minister said that the Central government had indicated that funds would be a constraint for this project. It had decided to send the team of experts to visit Belgium where a pilot project would be commissioned in November.

Mr. Mehta said the Soviet Union had also shown keen interest in the UCG at a shallow depth dam and that they had asked for the data from the coal department of the Centre.

He said that the secretary of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research had also suggested that the shallow mines of lignite in Rajasthan could also be utilised for the UCG.

The finance minister said that UCG would also be taken up in Bihar. He said the state government had succeeded to the Centre to take up the UCG in the joint sector by making the state a partner in it.

CSO: 4220/7261

SECOND INDIAN-DESIGNED FRIGATE LAUNCHED 15 OCTOBER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 16 Oct 81 p 5

[Text]

BOMBAY, October 15.
THE "Ganga", the second Indian Designed frigate being built by Mazagon Dock here for the Indian Navy, was launched today by Mrs. Aylis Pereira, wife of the chief of naval staff.

The tricolour-bedecked vessel slid down the slipway majestically, after Mrs. Pereira had broken the traditional coconut on the prow and garlanded her to the strains of the naval band.

The INS "Ganga" will be afloat in the dock basin till she is fitted out and joins the naval fleet in 1984. The first in the series, named INS "Godavari," launched in May 1980, is also being fitted out and she will join the navy in early 1983. One more frigate in this series, the "Godavari class", is to be constructed by Mazagon Dock for the navy.

Admiral R. L. Pereira, chief of the naval staff, said the "Ganga" was a lovely frigate and paid a tribute to the staff and workers of Mazagon Dock. More frigates would be ordered from the shipyard, he said.

Admiral Pereira said the shipyard should try to cut down the delivery period to about one year, from the present 15 months. The navy, he added, had an important role to play in national security. It had to guard the

coast, the assets in the exclusive economic zone, and also ensure the free flow of trade amounting to 80 million tonnes a year.

Vice-Admiral N. P. Datta, chairman of Mazagon Dock, in his welcome address, said Mazagon Dock had built six Leander-class frigates for the navy under the frigate project, begun in 1966, and they had proved to be powerful units of the navy's frigate squadron. The last two in the series, "Taragiri" and "Vindhyagiri," had undergone major modifications in their design and were more versatile than their predecessors.

The Godavari-class frigates were longer and larger than the Leander-class, with 25 per cent more displacement. They would incorporate powerful surface-to-surface missiles for the first time in a ship designed and built in the country. They would be capable of operating two large helicopters with hangar facilities.

Emphasising the need for indigenisation, Admiral Datta said the shipyard had geared itself over the years to meet the country's sophisticated requirements in shipbuilding and related fields. The public and private sector had an important role to play in import substitution. He complimented the workforce for its skill and dedication.

CSO: 4220/7262

AGARTALA 'SOURCES' REPORT LETTER FROM CHITTAGONG

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 81 p 11

[Text] Agartala, Oct 16--The proposal of the Chittagong Deputy Commissioner to the District Magistrate of the Tripura south district for a civilian meeting at Ramgarh in Bangladesh to solve the problem if refugee influx into Indian territory is not so innocent as it would appear at first, reports UNI.

Although the content of the six-page letter from the Chittagong D.C. was a closely guarded secret, sources here said that the Bangladesh authorities had wanted to confuse the issue rather than help find ways of checking the exodus.

The letter had reportedly made a series of allegations against the Indian authorities and held them responsible for the recent development in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

The letter alleged that India had sent armed personnel inside Bangladesh to create confusion and a law and order problem.

It also reportedly charged that the Indian authorities had wanted to create a permanent problem for Bangladesh in the region, and thus encouraged a large number of insurgents in that country.

The spirit of the letter, the sources said, would hardly help restore peace, and might even lead to misunderstanding between the two countries.

Bangladesh according to indications might try to raise a different issue at the proposed civilian meeting. It might take about a fortnights to organize the meeting in which a detailed list of the people who had crossed over to India since July 27 was expected to be placed for verification.

Bangladesh had raised doubts about the nationality of migrant tribals some time ago, and might stick to its gun in a bid to "lessen its own burden" of accommodating nontribals in the area.

Our Correspondent adds: The influx of tribals from the Chittagong Hill Tracts has posed a problem because of its impact over Tripura's "tribal politics."

By-elections to the three vacant seats of the State Assembly--Agartala, Bisalgarh, Raima valley--are to be held on November 29.

The Raima valley constituency is reserved for tribals. About 9,000 evacuees from Bangladesh, including those belonging to the Chakma, Mog, Marma and Tripuri communities, have been sheltered at Karbook. There is another camp at Silachhari, which is on the fringe of the Tripura-Chittagong border.

Charges of sedition and a conspiracy to launch an armed struggle to overthrow the State Government with help from "foreign quarters" were earlier made by the ruling CPI(M).

The Tripura Upajati Juba Samity, the only Opposition in the State Assembly and supposed to be a strong one, is contesting the Raima valley seat and has already made the refugee influx a major issue in its campaign.

The TUJS, since the last year, has been demanding the declaration of Chittagong as a "buffer State" for non-Muslim tribals, who constitute over 98% of its population.

This demand has some favourable impact on the Tripura tribals as the same clans dominate the villages on either side of the international border.

CSO: 4220/7269

BKMU FIFTH CONFERENCE OPENS IN RAJGIR 16 OCTOBER

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 81 p 13

[Text]

RAJGIR, Oct. 16.—The fifth Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union conference, which began here today, demanded "political rights" for farm workers and a due share for them, along with the working class and other Left democratic forces, in the "process of administration and power", reports UNI.

Voicing this demand the BKMU chief, Mr G. Yallamanda Reddy, told a gathering of farm labourers from all over the country: "Let us reflect their innermost thoughts and organize millions and millions of agriculture workers as a apart and parcel of the Left and democratic forces".

Mr Reddy warned farm labourers and poor peasants against the "dangerous offensive launched by casteist, communal and separatist forces" within the country and the "imperialists design" outside.

Mr Reddy said: "The arming of Pakistan by the U.S.A. with the most sophisticated F-16 planes and further help of billions of dollars for purchase of arms hold out a grave danger to the security of India". He was confident that the agricultural workers would defend the integrity and security of the motherland along with all Left, democratic and patriotic forces.

The situation inside and outside

the country, Mr Reddy said, was such that more united struggles of the working class, agricultural workers and peasantry on many issues were not only possible but this was the need of the hour to defeat the anti-people policies of the Government.

"Time has come to work out a programme in this regards" Mr Reddy said and stressed the need for enrolling more determined cadres dedicated to the cause of farm workers at village and other levels.

He admitted that "we are organizationally far behind the movement we have built".

Mr Reddy alleged that the Congress (I) Government had failed to implement radical land reforms. Ceiling laws were being pushed aside and the landlords were enjoying surplus land, he added.

He called upon the farm labourers to fight back the atrocities like burning of houses, beatings, killings and rape of women.

Earlier, welcoming the delegates, the reception committee chairman, Mr V. K. Yadav, M.P., said that owing to the democratic and socialist movement and spread of education among labourers consciousness had grown considerably and they were now no longer prepared to submit attacks and atrocities.

CSO: 4220/7269

FRESH BIDS ISSUED TO FOREIGN OIL FIRMS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Oct 81 p 15

[Text] New Delhi, October 16. Fresh bids from foreign companies will be invited for the 35 blocks offered for oil exploration, according to Mr P.C. Sethi, Union minister for petroleum.

Mr Sethi told a press conference today that the originally 22 foreign companies had submitted bids. But eventually, only seven or eight of them remained in the field, and even they made offers only in respect of one or two blocks.

"Negotiations with these foreign companies have been completed," Mr Sethi said. "The picture is not very bright." Many of the 35 blocks were still uncovered. We may have to invite fresh bids for them and even revise the blocks," he added.

Replying to a question about the terms and conditions offered to foreign companies, Mr Sethi said that India had agreed to production sharing but it had made it clear that until it became self-sufficient in oil, it would not allow physical lifting of oil. Instead, it would offer to buy the oil from the foreign companies.

About the oil prospects for the immediate future, Mr Sethi said that India hoped to touch a level of production of 30 million tonnes by 1984, leaving aside the Cauvery finds and the new structure (B-57) discovered off Bombay.

The potential at B-57 appeared to be good. But until a deep study of the reservoir had been made, one could not confidently predict its commercial viability.

The first well at B-57 yielded 1,300 barrels a day; the second 1,030 barrels; the third 1,50 [as published] barrels; the fourth only water and the fifth 739 barrels a day.

The strike in Palk Straits, 12 km from the coast of Tamil Nadu in the Cauvery basin, yielded 1,500 barrels a day. The oil found here was light crude, which was in great demand in the country. However, the commercial viability of the structure, which covered an area of 50 square kilometres, was yet to be proved.

Bombay High yielded 1,500 barrels a day in the initial days and covered an area of 80 square kilometres.

Mr Sethi said that gas had been found in the Andaman islands and in Tripura. A Soviet team was drilling a well in Tripura while another Soviet team was carrying out a seismic survey in West Bengal.

A sum of Rs 800 crores was being spent every year on exploration. Both the finance ministry and the planning commission had assured him that there would be no dearth of money for this purpose.

CSO: 4220/7267

CALCUTTA PORT ATTRACTS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 16 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] The rapid development in container traffic at Calcutta port has attracted the notice of international shipping. International shipping magazines, published from the U.K., have commented that the rapid expansion at Calcutta as an alternative container port alone poses a major threat to Bombay's acknowledged position as India's premier port.

It is mentioned that not only has the container traffic shot up from 1,300 for the whole of last year to about 1,500 a month at present at Calcutta, but also other break bulk cargoes are on the increase. One of those magazines says that Calcutta has been free from any major trouble since the beginning of the current year with berths normally available and pre-berthing detention nonexistent.

The possibility of increasing containerization at Calcutta from the current level of 3.5 million tons a year to 6 million tons without any major capital investment has also been highlighted. About 55% of the cargo handled at Calcutta can be moved in containers but less than 10% is actually moved in this form at present.

A spokesman of the Calcutta Port Trust said that the port had handled 2.07 million tons of cargo between August and September this year against 1.81 million tons during the same period last year. Against an average monthly handling of 302,000 tons at Calcutta last year, the port is handling now 345,000 tons a month. During the six-month period this year 8,817 containers were handled.

Pre-berthing detention of ships at Calcutta had come down from 1.75 days last year to 1.30 days this year. The turn round time of ships from the Sandheads to the Sandheads had also decreased from 17.6 days to 14.9 days.

Labour productivity at the port had improved. The output per hook per shift for import cargo had increased from 42.8 tons last year to 53.20 tons this year. For export cargo the increase had been from 38.2 tons to 48.8 tons.

Meanwhile, Calcutta port is getting ready to receive the first despatch of food-grain, expected to arrive within 10 days. A Food Corporation of India's mother vessel had already arrived at Kaknada in Tamil Nadu with grain from the USA. A FCI daughter vessel is on its way to bring 15,000 tons of grain to Calcutta. At a meeting between the officials of the FCI and the Port Trust held on Thursday, the Corporation had agreed to pay Rs 2.5 lakhs per month to the Port Trust for running of the mechanical handling equipment for unloading grain.

INDIAN RESERVE BANK RAISES CASH RESERVE RATIO

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 17 Oct 81 p 14

[Text]

BOMBAY, October 16: The Reserve Bank of India has raised the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of scheduled commercial banks from seven per cent to eight per cent. The implementation of the increase in the CRR will be effected in four phases. The ratio will rise from the present level of seven per cent to 7.25 per cent from November 27, to 7.5 per cent from December 25, to 7.75 per cent from January 29, 1982, and to eight per cent from February 26, 1982.

It may be recalled that the cash reserve ratio was raised in two stages from six to seven per cent—from six to 6.5 per cent from July 31 and further to seven per cent from August 21, 1981. Besides, the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) of banks has been raised from 34 to 35 per cent—from 34 to 34.5 per cent from September 25 and further to 35 per cent from October 30, 1981.

These measures were taken by the RBI to mop up the excess liquidity in the banking system. However, recent trends have pointed out that there has been a continuance of a "high pace of monetary and credit expansion".

MONEY SUPPLY

The pace of monetary expansion (M3)—money supply with the public plus time deposits of scheduled commercial banks—in the first half of the current financial year (April-September 1981) has been of the order of 5.9 per cent, the same pace of expansion as in the first half of 1980-81.

The RBI governor had told the

chief executives of major commercial banks on May 26, 1981, that the expansion in non-food credit in the 1981 slack season (May-October 1981) as also in the financial year 1981-82 should be at least be marginally lower than in the 1980 slack season and the financial year 1980-81, respectively. Banks were also told to plan their resource use in such a way that the increase in non-food credit in the first half of 1981-82 was not in excess of the corresponding expansion in the first half of 1980-81.

However, in actual practice, the expansion in non-food credit of scheduled commercial banks in the first half of 1981-82 has been of the order of Rs. 1,649 crores (seven per cent) against the expansion of Rs. 774 crores (four per cent) in the same period of the last financial year.

While the larger credit expansion in the current year is partly attributable to the recovery of industrial production, the pace of increase is definitely in excess of that what the monetary authorities wanted the banks to achieve.

The RBI has, therefore, considered it necessary to adopt "further supportive measures" to slow down the pace of expansion in non-food credit.

The one percentage hike in the cash reserve ratio would mean the impounding of Rs. 420 to Rs. 450 crores of bank funds by February, 1982. How far this will help in reducing the liquidity in the banking system remains to be seen. This will no doubt have an adverse impact on the banks' profitability, banking circles point out.

RESERVE BANK REPORTS ON STATE OF ECONOMY

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 10 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Text]

BOMBAY, Oct. 9.—The Reserve Bank of India has called for discipline in economy to contain inflationary pressures and appealed to the State Governments to ensure that their fiscal policies do not add fuel to the inflationary fires, report UNI and PTL.

In its annual report for 1980-81, the RBI said some States had virtually ignored the new scheme regulating overdrafts introduced in 1979-80, so that the total outstanding overdrafts on June 28 amounted to Rs 641 crores.

The RBI stressed the need to increase productivity and savings to overcome the current balance of payment difficulties and called for an appropriate combination of fiscal and monetary policies and a comprehensive approach treating supply and demand managements as integral parts and not as alternatives.

"The most disturbing element in the current situation is the widening trade deficit", the report said and appealed to the Centre not to get carried away by the possible decline in the quantity of imported petroleum crude because of the resumption of Assam oil production.

The external payments situation was expected to worsen in the current fiscal year and the situation was not expected to improve during the next two years, so the "utmost economy" was necessary in consumption and in on-plan expenditure.

Warning against the possible contrivance of the unfavourable climate for exports, the report said no significant improvement could be expected in the near future.

On industry, the RBI felt that there was need for further improvement in infrastructure for a

high and more sustained growth this year and in future.

"The continuing difficulties in respect of coal supplies, especially to non-priority sectors, the reported pileup of coal at pit-heads and the continuing port congestions are persistent infrastructural deficiencies", it pointed out.

About the price trend, it said the Centre should not be carried away by the slight fall in the rate of increase in the index. "The price situation remains difficult", it said and suggested the toning up of administrative machinery "for regulating trade practices to curb blackmarketing in crucial inputs and essential consumer goods".

The report points out that the pace of replenishment of food-stocks has not been as brisk as might be expected. The pick-up in the pace of procurement since April and the proposed import of wheat might, however, improve the overall public sector stock position. Even so, it is likely that the forthcoming year would begin with a lower public sector food stock level than in the past two years.

The report adds that while there is urgent need for greater research efforts in exploring alternative sources of energy and for curtailing imports of crude oil and petroleum products by increasing domestic production as well as by exercising restraint on total consumption, it is clear that these efforts will require time as well as very considerable investment before they can be fully effective.

UNION LEADERS SUBMIT MEMO TO LABOR MINISTER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Oct 81 p 7

[Text] CITU leaders P. Itamamurti, MP, and Dr M.K. Pandhe told Labour Minister N. D. Tiwari on Monday evening that the main question confronting the labour at present was that of changing the entire policy of the Government which happened to be directed against the working class.

They made this clear when Mr Tiwari tried to explain that the Government was not using its powers to curb working class struggles and had been keen to evolve a machinery for speedy settlement of disputes.

The CITU leaders submitted an eight-page memorandum outlining the organisation's views on the present industrial relations scene and suggestions for improving the situation.

Mr Tiwari told the leaders that the Government had yet to take a decision on the procedure to be adopted for determining the collective bargaining agent at the plant and industry levels.

He clarified that the procedure devised by his Ministry for verification of membership of Central trade union organisations was only for the limited purpose of their representation on various forums.

The CITU leader's meeting with him on Monday evening lasted 90 minutes. Earlier in the afternoon AITUC general secretary Indrajit Gupta, MP, had led a three-member AITUC delegation for a two-hour discussion with Mr Tiwari on labour matters.

These meetings were part of the Labour Minister's exercise of holding separate talks with representatives of the Central trade union organisations on questions related to the general industrial relations situation, verification of membership, convening of the Indian Labour conference including revival of the National Apex Body.

The two wings of the HMS held separate meetings with Mr Tiwari on Tuesday. The first delegation was led by Mr A. Subramanian and the other by Mr D. D. Vasisht.

The CITU memorandum charged the Government with attempts to browbeat the workers with daggers of ESMA and NSA in hand threatening them of dire consequences if strikes were not avoided. It gave several instances of police repression on

workers in different parts of the country with the Government deliberately assuming the role of silent spectator.

It held the Government responsible for boosting the INTUC in various committees where representatives of other central trade union organisations were not invited.

On the question of verification of membership of Central trade unions, it proposed that the secret ballot system should be introduced in those cases where the trade unions were contesting the figures of the Registrar of Trade Unions. It pointed out that under the Factories Act, there was already a machinery in existence for holding such elections through secret ballot.

CSO: 4220/7252

COURT ALLOWS TRADE UNION LEADERS' PRIVILEGE PLEA

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Oct 81 p 6

[Text] Cochin, October 14. The Kerala high court has held that the annual general meeting of a trade union is "a privileged occasion" and the publication of speeches made there in a journal, distributed only among its members, is "a privileged communication."

A division bench of the high court, consisting of Mr Justice G. Viswanatha Iyer and Mr Justice T. Kochu Thomman, made this observation while allowing an appeal by the president and general secretary of the Estate Staff Union of South India.

They had appealed against the decision of the Palghat sub-court, which had awarded damages of Rs 5,000 to a plantation managing director of the publication of a speech made by the president at the annual general meeting of the union in 1971 in the trade union journal, "Plantation Worker," which, the managing director contended, was per se defamatory. The high court set aside the decision of the sub-court.

It was not disputed that the statements in question were per se defamatory. But the trade union leaders claimed privilege on the ground that it was in the discharge of a duty or in furtherance of an interest that they made the statements. It is a claim of qualified privilege which, the court noted, was by its very nature defeasible on proof of express malice.

The court pointed out that the appellants as office-bearers of the union had the duty to safeguard the interest of the union members. The main purpose of the meeting at which the speech was made by the union president, Dr. P.H. Daniel, was to high-light the problems facing the members and to impress upon them the need for solidarity and sustained efforts to achieve the objectives.

"Subject to any such overriding consideration or principle of law, it is in the interest of society at large that trade unions should function without any inhibition or restriction," the court said.

Statements on privileged occasions, however emotional or irrational they may be, however rash or illogical their conclusions may be, will not be evidence of malice so long as such statements, although defamatory, are honestly made with full faith in the truth of what is stated and in their relevance to the claim of privilege, the court held. The court also pointed out that the law of defamation sought to hold the balance equitably between the rights of the individual and the interests of society. In so doing, the scale tilted in favour of communication, which the interest of society demanded.

PRICE RISE SPURS EXTENSIVE SEARCH FOR GOLD

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 11 Oct 81 p 3

[Text]

THE recent rise in the gold price has led to an extensive search for the mineral by the Geological Survey of India and the Mineral Exploration Corporation. Two economically significant gold prospects have recently been identified in Mallappakonda and Chigargunta areas in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh, lying in the southern continuation of the Kolar belt in Karnataka, it is officially stated.

It is said that India had a flourishing gold industry at the turn of the century, but the static price of gold over a long period resulted in the closure of many gold mines in southern India and Bihar. However, the current rise in gold price has made it possible to exploit low-grade gold ores which were previously considered uneconomic.

Apart from the prospects identified in Andhra Pradesh, gold planning has been found in Raigarh district in Madhya Pradesh and preliminary exploration has been carried out by the State Government. The GSI proposes to take up a programme of mapping and geochemical prospecting in the area during the current year to supplement the work done by the State Government and to formulate a programme for exploration. It is learnt that the existing programme for search of gold in Singhbhum district, Bihar, in Keonjhar district, Orissa, and in some parts of Ma-

harashtra will be continued.

The Noble Metals Sub-Committee of the Centre has formulated a five-year gold scheme (1980-83) with two objectives: To establish additional resources in the vicinity of the existing gold mines at Kolar and Hutti belts, in Karnataka, to expand their lives and secondly, to explore the old mining belts and other potential areas to identify new prospects.

The bulk of the high priority exploration programme in the northern part of Kolar belt is likely to be completed by the end of the year. Of the 10 blocks explored, Manighatta and Betraswamy blocks have shown relatively better prospects. Encouraging results have also been obtained in the southern continuity of the Hutti gold field. Prospecting is also being done in the Gadag gold field, in Dharwar district, Karnataka, it is stated.

In view of the prominent position of diamond in export earnings, a high priority national programme on diamond has been initiated by the GSI from last year's field season. In Wajrakarur, Andhra Pradesh, the existing joint programme of exploration by the GSI and the State Government is continuing. Till June this year, 30 diamonds, weighing a little over 10 carats, have been recovered by processing 1.196 tons of rock material, it is learnt.

CSO: 4220/7233

ASIAN RAILWAY EXECUTIVES MEET IN DELHI

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Oct 81 p 6

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 14. Railway systems of the developing countries, while stepping up the speed of their passenger trains will have to ensure that priority is given to the speedy movement of goods traffic too said Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, Minister of External Affairs here today.

Inaugurating the sixth conference of Top Railway Executives of Asia and the Middle East (TREAME) Mr Narasimha Rao said: "We have to make the railway system serve the whole nation both by carrying goods and passengers. Let us face it. Railways are going to be for the next half a century the most important poor man's transportation.

"Speed has become important because people wish to travel long distances as quickly as possible. But at the same time increasing the speed of passenger trains has resulted in slowing down other traffic to some extent and we shall have to find a solution to this."

The ten-day conference in which delegates from as many as 20 countries including China, Japan and Vietnam are participating has a heavy agenda, including plans for the launching of an Asian railway decade (1982-1992) for effective development of rail transport infrastructure, facilitation and promotion of tourism by rail, consideration of the role of railways in the development of inter-nodal traffic, review of the progress on the establishment of Asian Railway Union, preparation for convening the first Asian Railway Ministers' conference, and of matters of common interest. The present conference is being held in India after an interval of 20 years.

Back to rail transport: Mr S. A. M.S. Kibria, Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), said that though the role of the railways for bringing about accelerated economic development had shown signs of declining in recent years with the advent of quicker and more sophisticated forms of transport--and even the developing countries tended to move away from the railways--the situation had now again changed because of the energy crisis.

The railways still remained one of the most efficient forms of transportation in view of the lesser consumption of petroleum compared to other forms of transport. The ESCAP, Mr Kibria said, had envisaged an appropriate strategy for the expansion of the industrial and agricultural sectors in which the railways were assigned a key role. In its recent session, the ESCAP had recognised

the increasing importance of railway containerisation and multiple unit trains for the transport of goods. The developing countries should draw up comprehensive plans for the modernisation of their railway systems and much had to be done at the national level for this purpose.

The relative importances of road, rail and water transport systems had to be taken note of to avoid unnecessary duplication of services. The energy crisis had made it imperative for the developing countries to evolve a well coordinated road-rail network, he said.

Talking about the crucial process of fixing an appropriate order of priority between improvement of existing lines and services on the one hand and extending the facilities of this mode of transport to new and needy areas and sections of the population on the other, he said, "we have to pool our respective experience as well as create an enduring structure of mutual partnership if we wish to roll back the tide of helplessness and display our determination to forge ahead."

More fast trains: In this connection he highlighted the problems facing the Indian Railways. New lines were being demanded by the people while there was an equally pressing demand for the improvement of the existing lines. Since stepping up the speeds of the trains was also taking precedence over other matters, the Indian Railways had introduced many fast trains and "we are going to introduce more in the future."

The Railway Minister, Mr Kedar Pandey, in his presidential address said, that to meet the ever increasing traffic demands, the Indian Railways had put in service a variety of modern and high capacity wagons. Loading and unloading of wagons in important centres was being progressively mechanised. In order to improve the quality of freight service and to speed up movement of goods traffic, super-express goods trains had been introduced on various trunk routes.

Giving an idea of the huge increase in passenger and goods traffic railways he said that the number of passengers originating had risen from 1284 million in 1950-51 to 3,550 million in 1980-81. Similarly the originating freight traffic had gone up from 93 million tonnes to 219 million tonnes during this period.

Mr M.S. Gujral Chairman, Railway Board in his welcome address said that the developing countries, despite their serious constraints of resources and foreign exchange were making an earnest effort to achieve progress and self-reliance and meet the growing demands of industrial development and mass transit. The pace of such progress could be accelerated by adopting modern technology suited to our requirements and not involving heavy capital inputs and through sharing of the accumulated experience of other countries in the region and outside.

CSO: 4220/7258

RESULTS OF GSI WORKING SEASON MINERAL SEARCH TOLD

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 81 p 12

[Text] New Delhi, Oct 14--The geological Survey of India located new coal reserves of over 837 million tons during its last working season ending on August 31, 1981.

It found about 116 million tons of bauxite with 40% aluminium oxide content and a reserve of 610 million tons of iron ore in the north Goa sector.

Reserves of 250 million tons of power coal were discovered in the Tulsidabad area of Saharjuri coalfield and 100 million tons of it were found in Rajmahal coalfield in Bihar.

The GSI established 270 million tons of coal reserves in the Beguina-Chanch sector and 217 million tons in the Andal-Dakshin-Khanda-Tamla-Dubchuria sector of Raniganj coalfield in West Bengal.

According to the GSI's findings, 81 million tons of bauxite with more than 40% aluminum oxide content in Koraput district of Orissa, 10 million tons in Rajmahal hills and 20 million tons in the Amtipani area of Bihar and 5.6 million tons in Rajnandgaon district of Madhya Pradesh can be exploited.

A reserve of 480 million tons of iron ore has been found in the Abujmar plateau in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh.

According to a GSI estimate over 112 million tons of chromite reserve exists in the Sukinda-Nausahi belt of Orissa.

CSO: 4220/7256

GOVERNMENT TAKES OVER TWO OIL COMPANIES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, October 14 (PTI). The government today took over Oil India Limited and the Assam Oil Company (AOC).

The bill for the take-over of these two companies, along with the Burmah Oil Company (India Trading) Limited, was approved by parliament during the last monsoon session. The President gave his assent to the measure on September 28.

The government held 50 per cent equal shares with Burmah Oil Company (BOC) of U.K. in Oil India.

AOC was a 100 per cent subsidiary of BOC.

An official announcement said that all the three companies had been taken over with retrospective effect from January 1, 1977.

A total compensation of Rs 21.56 crores is being paid to them.

With the acquisition of the shares of these companies, the entire oil exploration, production and refining capacity in the country now comes under government control.

Oil India is one of the two premier agencies--the other being the statutory Oil and Natural Gas Commission--engaged in exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons.

Oil India produces three million tonnes of oil yearly from its fields in the North-East.

AOC produces 50,000 tonnes of oil in Assam which is fed into its refinery at Digboi--the oldest refinery in the country.

By a notification, the government has also merged the exploration division of AOC with Oil India. The refining and distribution operations of AOC are being vested with the Indian Oil Corporation.

BOC (India Trading) Limited is also being vested with the Indian Oil Corporation from today.

PAPER REVIEWS ELECTRONICS INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12,13,14,15 Oct 81

[Four-part article by S. Kumar: "State of Electronics"]

[12 Oct 81 p 20]

[Text] I-Turning a Room Into Ocean

Bombay, October 11. Taming the ocean may sound like a mythological fiction, but scientists at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, are attempting something akin to it.

They are trying to turn a room into an ocean by building a special tank and by simulating the characteristics of the deep sea like its bottom, waves, salinity, pressure and temperature. The experiment is essentially to unravel the mysterious behaviour of sound waves in deep sea. A sophisticated computer system will record all the parameters.

The project is of immense importance to our navy and to the naval submarines, in particular. There are certain zones of shade in coastal waters and the sound waves hitting the zones are not reflected. If an enemy submarine takes umbrage in the shadow zone, our naval forces will not be able to detect its presence, leaving our coastal installations vulnerable.

Sonar is a device for detecting submerged objects and sound waves are the only effective carriers of information in water. A knowledge of sound transmission in Indian coastal waters is vital for the design and operation of sonars and the underwater communication systems.

The department of electrical communication and engineering at the IIS is engaged in the theoretical and experimental studies, with a view to developing a model for sound propagation and to helping the defence services in designing suitable sonar systems.

The operation of sonars and associated electronic subsystems is often affected by the noise emanating from other sources. Marine propeller is one such source of noise which distorts the functions of sonar devices. Especially for submarines, the noise radiated by a propeller is of the utmost importance for designing the sonar and other systems. "Noise characteristics of marine propellers" is currently being studied under a project by the departments of civil

and mechanical engineering of the IIS. The primary objective of the project is to develop the capability to predict the noise characteristics of full-scale marine propellers. A sophisticated wind tunnel, which is a unique facility, is being utilised for testing the propellers.

The 70-year-old Indian Institute of Science, with 22 departments in pure science and engineering, has been active in electronics for the last 50 years. During the last six years, the institute had undertaken 13 projects sponsored by the Technology Development Council of the Department of Electronics, with a total investment of Rs 2 crore. Five of the projects had already been completed.

Among the completed projects is an "Arrhythmia monitor" for detecting any irregularity in the rhythm of heart beats. The equipment, developed by the bio-medical laboratory of the institute is the first of its kind in the country and it uses an electrocardiogram and displays the heart rate and other clinically significant measurements of a cardiac patient. This life-saving instrument is provided for continuous ECG rhythm monitoring of patients in coronary care units and for the timely detection of the so-called premature ventricular beats, said to be the harbinger of cardiac arrest and death. The equipment stores the data for future reference and gives alarms automatically when abnormal beats are detected. The unit relieves the medical staff from the drudgery of continuous manual monitoring of the patients. The indigenous equipment may cost around Rs 25,000 but would cost about Rs 1 lakh, if imported, according to a spokesman of the institute.

Heart Rate Alarm

Another device, a cardiac disastent alarm, gives an alarm if the heart rate goes below or above a predetermined rate. This is claimed to be a simplified form of cardiac monitoring system and attempts are being made to produce it indigenously.

The IIS has also developed some power-saving devices called thyristors. Using what are called the chopper technique, the IIS has developed thyristors for controlling motor drives. In the suburban electric train systems, the thyristors can be used for controlling the speed of traction motors instead of the conventional breaks, resulting in a saving of about 40 per cent of the total energy spent: Indian railways will have substantial requirements for thyristors for their locomotives in their future modernisation and expansion programmes.

Manpower development at the Centre for Electronics Design Technology (CEDT), design and development of acousto-optic devices for laser beam modulation, and machine translation of texts with pre-editing from English to Kannada and Kannada to Hindi, are among the projects currently under progress. The design and development of a demountable electron gun, a laboratory tool for studying the semiconductor properties and the development of techniques and equipment for processing and analysing X-rays and finger prints have also been completed by the IIS.

The task of rendering our defence equipment "invulnerable" rests with Bharat Electronics Limited at Bangalore, which enjoys the dubious distinction of employing the largest number of women (3,000) under one roof in the whole of Asia.

Prof. M.G.K. Menon, secretary to the department of science and technology, who is also chairman of BEL, in a chance encounter with the visiting newsmen at the factory premises, described the achievement of the company by saying that its efforts to make the critical components and to make them less vulnerable had progressed significantly though they were not totally successful.

To substantiate the claim that BEL has achieved a high degree of self-sufficiency in design and development of radio communication equipment and systems for armed services, police and other customers, a spokesman for the company said that the Indian Navy had entrusted BEL with the job of developing an integrated communication system for the next generation of warships. BEL had already been developing the radar and navigational equipment for the defence, civil aviation, merchant marine and meteorological services.

A multipurpose meteorological radar system which can obtain accurate wind and weather data up to a range of 200 km and at a height of 40 km along with the facility to detect cyclones and storms up to a range of 400 km, has been custom-designed by BEL for the Indian Meteorological Department. The project was sponsored by the DOE which gave Rs 36.40 lakhs for the first system in the country, now functioning at Bangalore. Four more systems are under production.

It is humanly impossible to test the quality of complex electronic circuits, systems and equipment which calls for the scrutiny of thousands of parameters. An automatic test equipment, developed by BEL under the patronage of the Electronics Commission, is considered a landmark in the R & D efforts of BEL.

The first, dual very high frequency omnidirectional radio range. (VOR), a navigational aid which enables an aircraft to determine its azimuth bearing, is one among the latest products released by BEL. An order for five VORs and five transportable VORs, along with six sets of test instruments, is already on hand. The civil aviation department has projected a demand for about 40 VORs in the next few years. While the first set has been installed at the Bangalore airport, the second VOR was despatched to Amritsar last month. The department of electronics had sanctioned Rs 21.5 lakhs for the project, which included foreign exchange components worth Rs 7 lakhs.

BEL has the unique distinction of commercially producing the small and medium integrated circuits (SSI and MSI), the only one to do so in the country, despite the fact that we are way behind the world leaders in this technology.

At present, BEL produces integrated circuits for radio, television and analog clocks. Preliminary work is being taken up for making the LSI chips, it is learnt.

Space quantity solar cells, designed, developed and produced at BEL, will power many of the future satellites. BEL has agreed to supply 100,000 solar cells to the space department from this year.

Products of exclusive BEL design have so far fetched about Rs 27.74 crores, while the redesigned components have brought about Rs 20 crores.

The development engineers are engaged in making telephone dialler chips which comprise some 17 large scale integrated circuits. The cost factor of the system is yet to be decided. The managing director of the BEL told newsmen that his firm would share the know-how and jointly produce certain products along with Switzerland. He, however, declined to give further details on the collaboration.

[13 Oct 81 p 6]

[Text] II--HAL's Air Route Radar Yet To Find Buyer

Bombay, October 12. The imminent entry of F-16 fighter aircraft into the Pakistani arsenal imposes fresh responsibilities on the avionics experts in India, though it may be a far cry to match the F-16 by indigenous efforts.

The electronics division of the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is trying to upgrade the Indian fighterplanes as nearer to the F-16 as possible. A visit to the Hyderabad unit of the HAL reinforces the belief that the HAL has the manpower and the technical capability to complete any given project well within the set timelimit.

Even the radars in the USSR fighters are two generations behind the F-16 models, according to a spokesman of the HAL. In air-to-air fighter versions, HAL is trying to achieve most of the parameters found in F-16. For example, the radars in F-16 have five modes of operation but our radars have only two modes.

The fire control radar (FCR) is one of the most complicated and difficult systems to fabricate in a fighter aircraft. One should take into account the fact that both the enemy and the fighter are flying at supersonic speed, while fabricating the strategic FCRs. The government has earmarked Rs 865 lakhs for this innovative project, scheduled to be completed by 1983.

A futuristic Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) air-to-air interrogation system is currently being developed. The Rs 3.62 crore project envisages inclusion of systems for air-to-air and air-to-ground interrogation and for a threat analysis through computer.

India is yet to achieve the capability of identifying a flying aircraft from another aircraft. Thus, our ability to launch a missile on a flying aircraft becomes restricted until we know its identification. The HAL has, however, improved its earlier version of IFF last year, at a cost of Rs 12.5 lakhs. The new IFF, designed in a record period of 18 months, for the first time went abroad and was fitted into the Jaguar aircraft meant to be delivered to India by Britain. The improved IFF will enable the ground station to interrogate the flying aircraft and also find its altitude.

Money-Spinner

The basic air-to-ground communication equipment, developed by the HAL is going to be a money-spinner, according to a spokesman. The Russian-made AN-32 aircraft would have the HAL equipment fitted into it. An HAL-made altimeter, fitted into the Jaguar and the AN-32, will find the height of the terrain and help the aircraft in avoiding obstacles while landing.

Another significant product from the HAL is called the "proximity fuse". When attached to a shell and fired, it will explode in the air, killing those hiding in trenches.

The Hyderabad division of the HAL was established in 1964 to produce eight items of electronics for the MiG-21 aircraft, under licence from the USSR. Today, there are 18 systems designed, developed and produced at the HAL.

To ensure safe conduct of air flights, India is still not well equipped with radars and other navigational aids.

The National Radar Council recommended the need for long range radars called the Air Route Surveillance Radar (ARSR) and Precision Approach Radar (PAR) in 1974. The Electronics Commission granted Rs. 203.02 lakhs and Rs. 79.39 lakhs, respectively, for the development of these two radars.

The work began from the scratch in December, 1976 at the avionics design bureau of the HAL. In less than four years, the HAL developed the first ARSR system. For similar works, some firms in the UK and USA, with 40-years of reputation in the field, took 72 months and 52 months, respectively. India is the sixth country in the world to make this type of radars.

The ARSRs can be easily converted into military radars to protect our borders. It will cover a range of 160 nautical miles on an eight square meters target. The data obtained from the radar could be transmitted over a distance of 5 km to an operational room. If 23 such ARSRs are installed in the country, the entire air traffic in India can be controlled from a single place. Despite the urgent need for the ARSRs, the directorate-general of civil aviation is yet to place an order with the HAL for the system. Under the existing system, the aircraft loses touch with control towers after few minutes of flying.

The PAR provides an accurate method of assisting the aircraft to land under bad visibility conditions. The same PAR can be used for guiding different aircraft, landing at the same time. The civil aviation department is now using what is known as the Instrument Landing System, fitted into the aircraft.

The foreign exchange component

in the ARSR and the PAR, when manufactured in 1983-84, would be about Rs. 97 lakhs and Rs. 15 lakhs, respectively. If imported, these systems might cost Rs. 400 lakhs and Rs. 140 lakhs, respectively.

The IAF has placed two orders for the PAR and two more are in the pipeline. No agency has placed any order for the ARSR so far.

The Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), another public sector undertaking at Hyderabad, which has made the EC TV a household name in this country, produces over 250 products in areas like defence, nuclear power, railways, industries and so on.

That the makers of an entertainment equipment can also make special electronic fuses which have the capacity to kill 10 times more than the conventional weapons, may be news to many. India is the fifth country in the world to possess this weapon.

LARGEST COMPUTER

The ECIL has made indigenously the largest computer in the country, named System-332. Only eight countries in the world have the capability to make computers of this type. The ECIL has the potential to manufacture 20 such computers annually, it is claimed.

The first System-332 computer has been developed for the department of atomic energy for its nuclear plant simulator to train plant operators, under artificially-created adverse conditions. The department of electronics gave a grant-in-aid of Rs. 118.75 lakhs for the development of this project.

The ECIL's computer will also monitor and control the first Fast Breeder Test Reactor at Kalpakkam in Madras. There are about 100 computers made by the ECIL now in operation in the country.

In the dawn when railway accidents are on the increase a soothing development from the ECIL—the cab signalling and automatic train protection system. This has been made for the metro railways between Dum Dum and Tollygunge in Calcutta.

The system continuously displays the safe permissible speed inside the driver's cabin by monitoring the occupancy of the track sections ahead. If the actual speed of the train is higher than the permissible speed, brakes are applied automatically. If any component of the system itself fails, the train will come to halt or its speed will be lowered. The department of electronics had given a grant-in-aid of Rs. 22.1 lakhs for this project and 12 systems are currently on trial.

ECIL's cockpit voice recorder or the black box is a valuable airport substitution. The endless magnetic tape in the black box (which is actually orange in colour) records all voice signals transmitted and received by the aircraft crew members for a minimum period of last 30 minutes of continuous operation. The recorded voice is protected against all type of accidents and it provides valuable clues about the mishap. So far 40 units have been supplied to the Indian Airlines, the National Remote Sensing Agency and some others.

A facsimile trans-receiver has been developed by the ECIL and it can transmit or receive documents, charts, pictures, handwritings, drawn, typed or original, from any part of the globe with telephone facilities. The time of transmission can be either four minutes or six minutes, depending on the type of the document to be transmitted. The maximum size of the original that can be transmitted is 21 cm x 29.7 cm. Newspapers, advertising agencies and commercial organisations will find the system very useful.

The ECIL, which is still under the department of atomic energy, has an expertise in installing the satellite earth stations and, on an average, it produces one antenna per day. It has also exported components worth Rs. 60 lakhs to the USSR.

Though the ECIL would in future concentrate on computer, communication and control system, the government has recently enhanced its licenced production capacity for the domestic TV sets from 20,000 to 40,000 per annum.

[Text] III--Computer To Maintain Rural Land Records

BOMBAY, October 13.

COMPUTER, a scientific marvel baby, offers a solution to an age-old Indian problem—the lack of proper land records and the inequities suffered by millions, as a consequence.

The technology development council of the department of electronics has assigned a project to the Computer Maintenance Corporation (CMC) to develop a computerised data base for rural land records.

The computer will keep track of details like the tenancy, the area of land cultivated by a person, revenue expected, dues from the tenant, irrigation, geographical and soil information and so on. Now, a village officer maintains 32 different records, if at all he maintains them. The computerised data will eradicate erroneous projections based upon incomplete data.

The CMC has embarked upon a pilot data base model, covering two taluks in Andhra Pradesh and it will store data concerning 5,000 land holdings, initially. The department of electronics has sanctioned Rs. 234 lakhs for the project, to be completed in the next 12 months.

What is known as "cannibalising" in computer field has yielded rich dividends to the CMC. Following a proposal from the department of electronics, the CMC undertook a project to enhance the performance of the existing computers and develop the spares indigenously. This method is known as cannibalism in computer. When the multinational IBM left India in 1978, there were over 100 computers of the 1401 type.

The R&D centre of the CMC at Secunderabad designed a new central processing unit early this year whose performance is claimed to be 30 per cent more than the original IBM machine. The IBM machine had 1,400 printed circuit boards but the CMC managed to reduce them to 253.

The computer industry is concerned about the traditional data input card as there is a dearth of appropriate pulp for making the cards and the maintenance of highly mechanical card readers is posing difficulties. The R&D engineers are currently designing an interface to replace the cards with what are known as floppy discs.

Another success story of the CMC's R&D efforts lies in its development and testing of mixed computer system. It imported various computer units and integrated them locally. This resulted in substantial foreign exchange saving. The sub-systems were later slowly indigenised.

A fascinating field of study now emerging out of the computer world is "electronic composition." The CMC

is conducting a survey of users in graphic arts industry to assess the acceptability of the proposed electronic composition in Indian scripts using "electronic printer." The CMC has designed key boards for text entry and editing terminal for Telugu and Devanagari scripts. Electronic composition and word processing has been extensively used for English.

The government of India, with the concurrence of the UNDP and the UN interim fund for science and technology development, has recently entrusted to the CMC a project called "International education and research for applications of computer technology (INTERACT)."

SOFTWARE SYSTEMS

Among the immediate objectives of the project are to develop software systems and system design, to integrate hardware for computer-based systems for controlling, monitoring, and handling of power grids, railway wagon movement, communication and information systems, to train personnel and to disseminate the technical information to the developing countries. Trainees are likely to be drawn from the developing countries in Central and Latin America, Africa, Arab states, Asia and Pacific. The project is expected to be completed by April, 1984. The government of India has pledged \$600,000 for the project under the Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries scheme.

The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR) in Bombay, described as "the cradle of India's atomic energy programme" has proved that fundamental research and applied activities in science can foster together and planners in the country may draw their own inferences from this.

The TIFR, which designed and built India's first electronic computer called TIFRAC in the late '60s, has come to be recognised as the first national centre for computer sciences and hence, the setting up of the National Centre for Software Development and Computing Techniques (NCSDDCT) at the TIFR. The centre was established in 1975 with the assistance of the UNDP.

To make a computer perform the desired functions is as difficult as or even more difficult than designing it. The writing of programmes, which decides the functions to be carried out by a computer, is known as the software technology and this has emerged as a branch of computer science hardly five years ago. The NCSDDCT is the apex national agency concerned with the development of the software technology.

The NCSDDCT's major contribution is in training the computer manpower. It has also developed expertise in

computer operating systems, computer language processors, networks and computer communications systems, database management systems, computer graphics, computer aided design, mathematical programming systems, text processing packages and software tools.

Thus, rightfully, the largest number of computer professionals in any city in the country is in Bombay. Bombay has 1,200 of them out of the total 5,500 in the country.

The NCSDDCT has linked an ECIL-made computer at the VJTI, Matunga, with the main computer at the TIFR in Colaba through the commercial telephone channels. People sitting in front of a terminal at the VJTI operate the computer 25 km away.

From this modest computer network, the centre has jumped to a national network. Under its project, in collaboration with the Space Application Centre, Ahmedabad and the Telecommunication Research Centre, New Delhi, the TIFR computer would be linked to the computers at Madras, Ahmedabad and Delhi via the APPLE satellite. This network is expected to become operational by the year end. If the value of each computer is Rs. 40,000, this network would enhance the value of each of them to Rs. 4 lakhs. Common data stored in one place will become available to people in different locations. The experiment, in effect, makes the computers talk to each other, as we do.

Apart from linking the computers in different places, the NCSDDCT has also specialised in the technology of closely linking together many small computers at one place which will ultimately generate much larger computing facilities.

Advanced computer courses conducted at the centre are complemented by an innovative part-time course in software technology, jointly conducted by the VJTI and the TIFR.

If there is a field in science where India is progressing on an equal footing along with the West, it is in speech research. The speech and digital systems group at the TIFR is engaged in speech recognition and synthesis by a computer. In other words, the group is trying to endow the computer with a brain that is as good as a human brain and to make it understand our speech and speak in our own language.

Though this research is just emerging out of the realm of science fiction, the TIFR group has already derived some practical applications from its work. When an Avro aircraft crashed in Pune in 1979, the court of inquiry found the conversation in the cockpit voice recorder unintelligible. The help of the TIFR group was sought which used its techniques to remove the unwanted noise from

the tape and improved the quality of conversation.

Electronic telephone exchanges, which will never go dead (they have no cables), and will have a hot line facility, has been developed by the systems and digital group for the defence. If an urgent call is to be put through, the man in command can interrupt even if the line is engaged. The system will enable automatic dialling and detailed billing of the STD calls.

A data handling system for air defence applications which processes radar data to detect, identify and help intercept enemy aircraft, is one of the defence projects handled by the group. The know-how can be exploited to build air traffic control systems.

Based on the fact that rain drops in atmosphere reflect radar signals, the SDS group has devised a computer scanning system for a weather radar which hands out instantaneously rainfall pattern maps in a given range. It will be futile to do this job manually. The system can generate a rainfall map once in every 15 minutes. One system is already operational at the India Meteorological Department, Madras, while another one is to be installed at Calcutta shortly.

The solid state electronics group at the TIFR, which once served as the nucleus of the Semi-conductor Corpo-

ration at Chandigarh, is the only group in the country generating the know-how for producing the large scale integrated circuits. An LSI is a silicon slice of the size of a postage stamp which will have over 10,000 components or transistors imbedded in it. Sadly, the country has not got the appropriate industrial infrastructure to absorb the technology.

The group, under a grant from the department of electronics, has developed computer-aided design system for ensuring proper working of the LSI chips, used in electronic watches, calculators and micro-processors. The complexity of the whole process can be judged from the fact that for designing an LSI chip for watch, 265 different processes have to be carried out.

The ion plantation beam, the equipment required for making the ICs is being locally fabricated by this group at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs while the equipment, if imported, may cost over Rs. 40 lakhs.

The dream of countries like Japan and the US to make a cheap solar cell using the silicon chip but the still remains a distant and costly dream. Amorphous silicon is being tipped as an alternative material for making the solar cells and its econom-

mic viability is being established. The solid state electronics group is engaged in studying the characteristics of the amorphous silicon and a breakthrough is expected before the end of next year.

Microwave engineering is essential for land-based communication radars, television and remote sensing which form the core of our defence, civilian, industrial and energy sectors. That we are still importing hundred crores worth microwave components is an acknowledged fact. The department of electronics launched the Special Microwave Products Unit in 1978 at the TIFR as a spin-off from the microwave engineering group of the institute. The SMPU, by filling the gap in this technology, is producing components worth Rs. 65 lakhs annually.

Among its current projects are the development of a Doppler radar to guide the shells to hit the targets accurately. The most sensitive and sophisticated radar can measure the velocity of the shells to 0.1 per cent accuracy. The first unit made for the defence at a cost of Rs. 3 lakhs is on trial. This has reduced the cost by 50 per cent. The SMPU is also producing certain components which are used by defence services for jamming the enemy communication systems.

[15 Oct 81 p 19]

[Text] IV--Commission of No Help

Bombay, October 14. Divided bureaucracy, inconsistent policies and professional rivalry among experts are strangulating the electronics industry in India--a goose that lays golden eggs here as elsewhere.

Current official reports of growth in electronics may become its swansong, unless some metamorphosis sets in to change the dying goose into a phoenix.

A visit to some of the "impressive" projects of the electronics commission in the country overwhelms the visitor if he looks at them in isolation but seen in the light of national and international perspectives, the truth emerges that we have just touched the fringe of the field.

Compared to the fields of space and atomic energy, electronics seems to be a non-starter. Whatever little has been achieved in electronics has been in spite of the electronics commission, it is felt and hence the question whether we need an electronics commission at all. In fact, production activities in electronics comes under five different ministries while the research activities are supervised by 10 ministries.

Prof. Nag's Ouster

As a thumbrule one can say that any breakthrough achieved in electronics in our country invariably owed it to the defence services. Every single research and

production unit at Bangalore, Bombay and Hyderabad, which were shown to the newsmen recently by the department of electronics, bragged about its contribution to the defence but maintained a discreet silence over the consumer products.

Prof. M.G. K. Menon, the first chairman of the electronics commission since 1971 was saddled with too many responsibilities and in 1979 he was transferred to the department of science and technology when Prof. Nag took charge exclusively of the department of electronics. Displacement of Prof. Menon and the appointment of the Sondhi committee proved to be only a cosmetic solution to a deeper crisis. The unceremonious ouster of Prof. B. Nag and the appointment of Dr P.P. Gupta, managing director of the Computer Corporation of India, as the secretary to the department of electronics, in May this year, was puzzling.

Prof. Nag reportedly sided with the Sondhi committee recommendations which suggested the abolition of the electronics commission. The Sondhi committee report submitted in 1979 was lying in cold storage for two years and the government's rejection of the report lock, stock and barrel, followed the removal of Prof. Nag.

That confused minds run the department could be inferred from some of the instances. Semiconductor devices are the heart and soul of the electronics industry. The West is making very large-scale integrated circuits (VLSI) which has over 150,000 components in a tiny chip.

We are yet to make the large scale integrated (SLI) circuits which have over 1,000 components. Way back in 1972, establishment of a dedicated semiconductor corporation was suggested and the final decision was delayed till 1976, thanks to the redtapism.

During her electioneering, Mrs Gandhi announced that the complex would be set up in Chandigar, Mr Motarji Desai, who succeeded her, ordered a fresh appraisal of the whole project. The project, a spin-off from the research done at the solid state electronics group for the TIFR, was scheduled to become operational in March, 1979. The TIFR professor who conceived and implemented the project was not retained to see its fruition. Many earlier decisions were reversed and foreign contracts renegotiated and till today no worthwhile production has taken place in the complex.

However, the authorities had the cheek to display a solar cell in an exhibition at Bangalore as "indigenously made" while the truth is that it is indigenously assembled. Now the corporation will import the components, assemble the devices and sell them for the industry. In the next few years, it is expected to take up production of the LSI chips indigenously.

Wasted Efforts

Housed in asbestos-thatched sheds, the special microwave products unit (SMPU) at TIFR which took birth along with the semiconductor corporation, annually produces components worth Rs 60 lakhs. Even the presence of persons like Dr Raja Ramanna on the board of directors of the Indian Institute of Technology, Powai, did not help the SMPU in procuring a site for its complex inside the IIT campus. During Prof. Nag's tenure, land was acquired in New Bombay from the

government of Maharashtra and the first installment of the amount was also paid. After the arrival of Dr Gupta, the SMPU is back to square one.

Some of us had the privilege of seeing the first electronic watch made by the Bharat Electronics Limited. The BEL, having achieved the breakthrough six months ago, claims that it can produce a million watches in a year. But the government refused them licence for production and their efforts have become a waste. On the other hand, the HMT has been allowed to collaborate with the Citizen watch company of Japan to produce electronic watches. That a factory next door should ignore the local technology and go in for foreign collaboration is bothering the BEL staff. As if to add fuel to the fire, suggestions are in the air that the BEL should give up its production of TV picture tubes and concentrate on professional electronics.

The studied silence on the part of the spokesman regarding similar products made by other firms was appalling. For example, the BEL spokesman, after a lot of prodding, reluctantly referred to the contributions made by the SMPU. The ECIL spokesman while claiming the superiority of the "proximity fuses" made by them for the defence did not utter a word about the fuses made by the HAL.

The department of electronics recently sent a stinker to Mr C.M. Stephen protesting against the proposed import of communications equipment worth Rs 363 crores by the P & T during the sixth plan period. The letter referred to delayed decisions by the user ministries and to the manipulations in equipment specifications and the supply time schedule so as to rule out the domestic production.

The rift between the railway ministry and the electronics department over the import of a modern computer is now common knowledge.

In 1990, the Microwave Landing System (MLS) will become mandatory for all civilian air traffic. The HAL has the ability to produce the system but there is no response from any agency in the country as yet, indicating the lack of a long-term perspective. Should the production stagnate, frustrated personnel may migrate elsewhere and there will be a manpower crisis, it is feared.

The committee on public undertakings in its 18th report to the Lok Sabha has rapped the ECIL for its heavy losses, as the firm has not been able to keep pace with the rapid technology development in the advanced countries. The ECIL had regretted that it failed to visualise the need for upgrading the technology at some stage. However, the committee was uncharitable in blaming the ECIL for its excessive research orientation and self-imposed restraint in adopting foreign know-how. When self-reliance is our gospel and when a tuppence is being spent on R & D, to criticise precisely these two aspects seems to be unfair and it may turn counterproductive.

The photograph of an Indian is prominently displayed in one of the sections of a well-known US computer firm, Memorex. The Americans thus express their gratitude for the Indian who designed and developed a computer disc subsystem for them. The CMC at Hyderabad has imported the Memorex disc subsystem developed by an Indian abroad!

Though the BEL has been engaged in the production of TV tubes for over a decade, about one-third of the country's requirements are still being imported.

A study of the Information, Publication and Analysis wing (IPAG) of the electronics commission says: "The price of almost all types of indigenously produced semiconductor devices are considerably high compared to the international prices due to various factors like uneconomical level of production, lack of modern technology and production facilities and the high incidence of import duty on capital equipment and raw materials."

According to the IPAG statistics, the licenced capacity for TV picture tubes in the organised sector is half-a-million and the installed capacity is 360,000. Against this, in 1980, the actual production was 260,000 and the projected demand in 1990 is about 2.8 million tubes.

In small and medium integrated circuits, the licenced capacity is 3.5 million pieces but the actual production is only 1.03 million pieces. By the end of the century, the country may need 30 million pieces. In LSI, the licenced capacity is 250,000 and the demand in 1990 is expected to be 10 million but the actual production today is nil.

The total production of electronic goods in the country is estimated at Rs 800 crores. We import goods worth Rs 400 crores and export a meagre Rs 42 crores.

Low capacity, outmoded technology, high cost, poor quality, lack of entrepreneurship, government delays and competition from countries like Singapore, Taiwan and Korea and of late, from China, have caused the current crisis in electronics, according to the Electronic components industries' association (ELCINA).

At a recent seminar, the ELCINA demanded delicensing of the electronic component industry for five years, free flow of technology, monitoring of licences by the department, opening up of telecommunication to the private industry and more fiscal incentives to give a boost to the declining industry. Mr C.P.N. Singh, Union minister of state for electronics, and Dr P.P. Gupta, who were present at the seminar could not have missed these points.

Dr Gupta's standard reply to certain embarrassing questions was to forget the past and to look into the future. How long should we continue to forget the past?

CSO: 4220/7254

SCIENTISTS IDENTIFY EIGHT NEW WHEAT VARIETIES

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 12 Oct 81 p 10

[Text]

WHENAT scientists have identified eight new wheat varieties for different agro-climatic conditions for extensive field tests and seed multiplication during the coming rabi season reports UNI.

The new varieties, chosen from about a thousand new wheat and triticale strains tested during the 1980-81 season for yield and other attributes, will add to the diversity of the existing varieties in the country.

The choice of new varieties was made at the All India Wheat Research Workshop of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research held at the Mahatma Phule Agricultural and Technology University at Pune. About 250 wheat scientists attended the workshop.

The scientists reviewed the work done during the previous seasons and noted with satisfaction that in spite of some constraints the country was able to harvest 36 million tonnes of

wheat, indicating the stability of the Indian wheat revolution.

The new varieties identified are: HD 2285, DL 153-2 and WL 2265 for the northern plains zone of Punjab, Jammu, western Uttar Pradesh, eastern Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi and northern Madhya Pradesh. Of these, HD 2285 is for late sown, good fertility irrigated conditions, while the other two varieties are for timely sown, low fertility rain-fed conditions.

WH 291: for the semi western plains zone comprising the alluvial tract of Gujarat, Rajasthan, excluding Kota, Udaipur and Sriganganagar divisions and Haryana, excluding Karnal and Kurukshetra divisions. The variety is meant for late sown, good fertility and irrigated conditions.

HUW 55 for the north eastern Uttar Pradesh and northern Bihar, for timely sown, irrigated high fertility conditions.

CSO: 4220/7241

COKING COAL RESERVES DEEMED SUFFICIENT

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 Oct 81 p 15

[Article by Damodar Gupta]

[Text]

COKING coal imports were first made in 1978 when Mr Biju Patnaik was Union Minister of Steel in the Janata Government at the Centre. One million tons were imported at a cost of about Rs 80 crores in foreign exchange. With the change of Government in 1980, it was expected that a pragmatic approach would be adopted regarding coking coal imports. That hope has been belied. Mr Pranab Mukherjee has announced that orders for the import of 500,000 tons of coking coal at a cost of Rs 45 crores had already been placed and that tenders would be floated for a further million tons which would cost Rs 90 crores in foreign exchange.

The reserves of coking coal in the country and the steel production targets do not justify imports. Mr R. G. Mahendru, Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Bharat Coking Coal Limited, is on record as having said that "the last ounce of coking coal will come out from the Jharia coal-fields in 2145 A.D.". It implies that the coking coal reserves in Jharia alone will last for the next 163 years.

Total coking coal reserves in the country have been estimated at 23,406 million tonnes by coal exploration agencies. (According to the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Diary, 1981-82, total reserves of coal in India are 113,977 million tonnes, which includes 2,099 million tonnes of lignite reserves besides reserves of coking coal.) Of the 23,406 million tonnes of coking coal reserves, proven reserves have been estimated at 10,734 million tonnes, indicated reserves at 8,780 million tonnes, and inferred reserves at 3,892 million tonnes.

These reserves have been found to exist to a depth of 1,200 meters. Further prospecting at greater

depths is likely to reveal more reserves of coking coal. As such, there is no immediate cause for worry regarding availability of coking coal in the country. Secondly, the steel-coal ratio is 1:1.5, that is, for producing one tonne of steel, 1.5 tonnes of raw coking coal are required. The installed capacity of the integrated steel plants, namely, Bhilai, Rourkela, Bokaro, Burnpur and Durgapur is, as stated by Mr Pranab Mukherjee, 11.5 million tonnes. This capacity is expected to be raised to 24 million tonnes by 1990. Even so, the country's coking coal reserves are adequate to meet the demand for increased steel production.

QUALITY

As regards quality, the picture is not alarming. The ash content of coking coal of steel grade I and steel grade II does not exceed 18 per cent and can be used by steel plants without washing. The ash content of washery grade coking coal—from grade I to grade IV—varies between 21 per cent and 35 per cent, but this can be brought down to 18 per cent to 17 per cent by washing. The

moisture content of indigenous coking coal varies between two per cent and three per cent, which is a tolerable level for steel-making. Though the ash content of imported coking coal is low, the moisture content is reported to be higher than that of Indian coking coal.

The ash content of coking coal can be brought down to 18 per cent to 17 per cent by proper beneficiation. Coal beneficiation technology was first adopted in India in 1951 when a washery was set up by the Tata Iron and Steel Company in West Bokaro Colliery. Since then, 14 washeries in the coking coal sector have been set up having a total installed capacity of 25.62 million tonnes of raw coking coal input annually. Through proper beneficiation and, if necessary, by re-washing washed coking coal with a high ash content, the ash content can be reduced to a tolerable limit for steel-making.

The ash content of Assam coking coal, according to mining experts, varies between five per cent and 18 per cent while the sulphur content varies between

three per cent and seven per cent. The sulphur content can be brought down to one per cent to two per cent by beneficiation. The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute has prepared a feasibility report for setting up a beneficiation plant at Tipong (Assam) to treat local coking coal. The annual capacity of raw coking coal input in this beneficiation plant has been estimated at 470,000 tonnes.

The allegation that the ash content of even washed coking coal is high draws its justification from the fact that the washing is not done efficiently. In 1962 the coal washeries maintained an yield of washed coal of up to 87 per cent, the ash content being brought down to the level of 17 per cent. at present, the yield of washed coal varies between 63 per cent and 68 per cent but the ash content hardly ever is reduced below 20 per cent.

Since the washeries use modern technology, there is no reason why "perfect separation" of impurities in raw coking coal cannot be achieved or the ash content reduced to 17 per cent. Mining experts feel that "the yield of washed coal may come down drastically but the quality of washed coal can be maintained". According to these experts, "30 per cent yield of washed coal at 17 per cent ash level from the lower seam coals can be obtained by washing; half of the total production can be successfully utilized for steel making". The washeries, therefore, should be forced to produce washed coal at 17-18 per cent ash level. It is felt that there is a need "to re-assess the creation of new additional washing capacity" so that an adequate number of washeries are planned and installed for the entire coking coal output of the Jharia coalfields.

COST

Next comes the cost structure. There has been a gulf of difference between the cost of indigenous coking coal of inferior quality when washed and imported coking coal. According to mining experts,

the cost of a tonne of washed coal produced amounts to Rs 300 while that of a tonne of imported coking coal from Australia, as admitted by the Union Steel Minister, is about Rs 900. Imported coking coal is therefore certain to lead to an escalation in steel production costs.

The Central Mine Planning and Design Institute has prepared a feasibility report for setting up a plant at the Talcher colliery (under Central Coalfields Limited) for preparation of metallurgical fuel from non-coking coal. The "formed coke" produced in this plant on an experimental basis from non-coking coal will be tested in the blast furnaces of steel plants to assess its suitability as an alternative fuel to the conventional hard coke produced from coking coal. If the experiment proves a success, it could usher in a revolutionary change in the steel economy in that the problem of metallurgical fuel would be solved for centuries to come because of the abundant reserves of non-coking coal.

With total coal reserves of 113,977 million tonnes, India occupies the eighth position in the world. Of these reserves, non-coking coal amounts for as much as 68,472 million tonnes.

Meanwhile, the CMPDI and BCCL have jointly prepared a massive plan for restructuring the entire Jharia coalfields—the cradle of coking coal—at an estimated cost of about Rs 2,029 crores. According to one estimate, more than 700 million tonnes of coking coal in Jharia is standing on pillars ready for extraction. The plan envisages reconstruction of the coal belt into 30 blocks, 21 of which will form underground mining blocks and the rest remaining nine open-cast mining blocks.

Seen against this background, there is hardly any justification for importing coking coal more so as a huge drainage of previous foreign exchange is involved. Some fact that the imports are based more on political factors than on economic necessity.

INDUSTRY MINISTER WARNS ON AUTOMOBILE PRICES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Oct 81 p 9

[Text] New Delhi, October 11 (UNI)--The Union industry and labour minister, Mr N.D. Tiwari, has said the government might enforce price regulatory measures if the manufacturers of automobiles, scooters, tractors and light commercial vehicles failed to control the prices.

Mr Tiwari told UNI that the prices of these products had started rising indiscriminately in the recent past and were causing great hardship to the consumers. He said some factors like inflation and rising cost of inputs may have necessitated the rise in prices in the past but the present escalation appeared to be far beyond these reasons.

He said the bureau of industrial costs and prices had been asked to review prices of these products in the light of data and arguments of the manufacturers and determine the rationale behind these increases. He said a period of three months had been set to complete this exercise after which the government would decide upon the course of action to limit the prices.

Voluntary Curbs

The industry minister told a group of tractor manufacturers recently that some manufacturers were not submitting the data required by the cost accounts branch of the finance ministry, which had been charged with the responsibility of examining the price increases.

He said a price surveillance scheme had been in operation since 1974 when the tractor (price) control order of 1967 was revoked to enable the manufacturers to maximise their production.

Mr Tiwari urged the manufacturers to undertake a voluntary exercise to decide the extent to which prices of these items could be reduced and ensure that there were no further increase in prices.

Mr Tiwari said a similar exercise was being conducted in the field of consumer products like cosmetics and tooth-paste, to control their prices. He could not understand how a tooth-paste company had recently declared a dividend of more than 20 per cent to its share-holders but could not reduce the price of the end product for the benefit of the consumers.

POWER SECTOR GROWTH IN FIRST HALF '81 REPORTED

Calcutta THE SUNDAY STATESMAN in English 18 Oct 81 p 7

[Text] **T**HE power sector in India maintained a high rate of growth during the first six months of the current financial year. Against a target of 9.4% increase in power generation for 1981-82, the rise between April and September this year was more than 14%.

According to official sources, during the six-month period, 60,490 million units were generated against 51,906 million units during the corresponding period last year. A notable feature of this achievement was 20% rise in thermal power. At present, it appears to be a paradox that while the performance of the power sector has improved, severe power cuts continue to affect life in many parts of the country.

According to the sources, all the regions in the country recorded a commendable growth during the past six months over the corresponding period last year. The northern region recorded an increase of 14%, western region 11% and southern region 14.8%. Power generation in the north-eastern region went up by 23% and the eastern region 21%. The Damodar Valley Corporation maintained a growth of 45%.

The sources claimed that a breakthrough in power generation had come in August 1980 with the onset of monsoon. Between September 1980 and January 1981, there had been considerable improvement in the power position. In December 1980, the power shortage in the country was about 11%, against 23% during December 1979. In January, the deficit was 14%.

Whatever may be the actual gap between demand and supply the Centre is assuming a significant role. The installed capacity in the Central sector is expected to be 45% of the total capacity in the country by 2000 A.D. A large number of projects are being implemented by various Central organizations. However, the capacity in the State sector will still be substantial and as such the State Electricity Boards have been asked to prepare a corporate plan so that the organizational growth to meet the power requirements of the State can be planned well

ahead.

The need to improve technical skill in the management of the generation transmission and distribution system separately has been pointed out to the SEB authorities. The power industry is both capital as well as labour intensive. There is considerable interaction between equipment and the technical skill of individual workers. Management of the SEBs is likely to improve when all the areas are professionalized.

The impact of various guidelines given by the Centre for improving the performance of thermal stations has been periodically reviewed. An all-India conference of Power Ministers was held for the second time in November 1980. Besides meetings of Power Ministers on a regional basis were held in Bombay, Calcutta, Hyderabad and Lucknow in February and March this year. It is expected that a general change in the approach to the management of power industry will come about shortly in all the organizations concerned. Meanwhile, the Rajadhyaksha Committee, in its report, has recommended an increased role for the Central sector in power generation. It has suggested that the focus should be on regional planning rather than State planning for an effective control and coordination of the power system.

The committee has also suggested standardization of plants and machinery so that the time taken for detailed engineering designs and lay-outs is cut down. It has recommended that in order to bring about some competitiveness in the power equipment sector, another organization should enter the field of manufacture, failing which BHEL should be brought under the Department of Power.

A Staff Reporter adds: The 210-MW fifth unit at the Bandal thermal power station will be lighted up in November, according to official sources in Calcutta on Saturday. It will begin commercial generation in March. The sources said that the unit being a much bigger one than the exist-

ing ones in the State, was expected to serve better than the others.

Mr Jyoti Basu will review the progress of coming power projects in West Bengal at a meeting with the State Electricity Board and the Power Department officials at Writers Building on October 21. The progress of the first phase of the Kolaghat

project of the Board will also be reviewed.

The sources claimed that work on the Kolaghat project was going on as per schedule. He hoped that the first unit there would be commissioned by December 1982. According to him, the problem of providing jobs to the people, who had lost their land because of the project, had been solved. Although the Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation's new project at Titagarh is not on the agenda of the October 21 meeting, its progress was stated to be satisfactory.

Meanwhile, the power shortfall continued to plague life in Calcutta and its neighbourhood on Saturday, despite an improved generation by three units at Santaldih. At one stage in the afternoon, the plant's generation rose to 230 MW. Two units at Bandal generated 128 MW at 2.30 p.m. The Durgapur Projects supply to the Board was 44 MW in the morning and 50 MW in the evening.

According to official sources, the shortfall in Calcutta was 51 MW and 77 MW during the morning and the evening peak hours. The evening deficit was expected to come down as in the past few days.

The deficit had come down to 12 MW at 2.30 p.m. For a brief spell towards the evening, there was no deficit. But it shot up as the demand increased after 6 p.m. In the areas served by the Board the deficit was 20 MW and 40 MW.

The Calcutta Electricity Supply Corporation is said to have generated 198 MW and 230 MW. The city system was aided by 201 MW and 220 MW from the Board and 78 MW and 73 MW from the Damodar Valley Corporation.

INJUNCTION AGAINST ANTULAY-SPONSORED TRUSTS ISSUED

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 Oct 81 pp 1, 9

[Text] Bombay, Oct 16--Mr Justice S. C. Pratap of Bombay High Court today passed an ad interim injunction restraining the Indira Gandhi Pratibha Prastishan and the Konkan Unnati Mitra Mandal from appropriating or utilizing the funds and assets so far collected for any purpose, report UNI and PTI.

Mr Justice Pratap issued the order after two writ petitions were filed against the trusts floated by the Chief Minister, Mr A.R. Antulay. He permitted the trusts to incur routine expenses of Rs 5,000 each till November 9.

He also ordered that the petitions--one by Mr Madhu Dandavate, M.P., Mr G.P. Pradhan, leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, Mr S.S. Varde and three others and the other by the Samajwadi Manch leader, Mrs Mrinal Gore, Mr Jagannath Madhav, Janata MLA and two others--should come up for final hearing before him on December 14.

Today's hearing in the court was marked by heated exchanges between the Government lawyers and the advocates of the petitioners.

The removal of the name of the Prime Minister from the list of 15 respondents given by the second petitioner was agreed upon by mutual consent.

Counsels for the petitioners told the court that certain provisions were vitiated by the Chief Minister, Mr Antulay, which amounted to "failure of mandatory obligations."

"Mr Antulay and the State Finance Minister, Mr Ramrao Adik, misused their positions and made the Charity Commissioner of Bombay part of the fraud," an advocate, Mr G.G. Kalsekar, said.

When counsel for the petitioners, Mr Ashok Desai, prayed to the court to restrain any further grant to the trusts by the Maharashtra Government, the Advocate-General, Mr Arvind Bobde, said: "The court cannot be a forum to deal with the decisions taken by the Government on expenditure and sanctioned by the State Legislative Assembly."

While granting the ad-interim injunction, Mr Justice Pratap allowed, however, the trustees to collect funds for the trusts. The court sat overtime for half an hour breaking its normal practice while passing the order.

Mr Justice Pratap today adjourned the hearing of a petition seeking to disqualify Mr Justice B.A. Masodkhar and Mr Justice R.L. Aggarwal of the High Court from holding the office of a judge on grounds of their being trustees of the Indira Gandhi Pratibha Pratisthan. The hearing will begin after the Diwali vacation on a date yet to be fixed.

In New Delhi, the Supreme Court has served a show-cause notice on Mr A.R. Antulay, asking him why a writ petition challenging the constitutional validity of the cement allotment policy of the State should not be admitted.

Mr S.B. Bahadur and Mr Tejsi Shyamil of Bombay, contended in their joint petition that the procedure adopted by the State Government and Mr Antulay in allocating cement was arbitrary, discriminatory and unconstitutional.

The petition said the procedure was violative of Article 14 of the Constitution which guaranteed equality before law to citizens.

They had applied for small quantities of cement. But they were not allocated any cement, while those who donated funds to various trusts, which have been cited as respondents, had been allotted the commodity, they said.

Meanwhile, Mr Antulay arrived in New Delhi from Bombay this evening and immediately met the Prime Minister.

Mr Antulay told reporters on arrival that he had come to Delhi to attend a meeting convened by the Union Planning Minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, on development of Wardha in his State.

CSO: 4220/7268

BRIEFS

SOVIET SHIP'S VISIT--Madras, Oct 9--Borodino, A Soviet naval training ship, belonging to the Pacific Ocean Naval Academy, is in Madras port on a short visit. The naval vessel is on a routine mission to impart practical navigational training on the high seas to cadets of the Academy, Rear Admiral I.V. Karmadonov and Captain A.E. Chumichev, told newsmen aboard the ship on Thursday. The ship has come to Madras from Vladivostok after a 20-day voyage. Floating college: This is one of the four modern training ships of the Soviet Navy. A mini floating college, the ship has sophisticated equipment and it can communicate with satellites to detect its exact position on the sea. The ship is equipped with automatically operating anti-aircraft guns with a range of 10 km. The ship carries 500 Naval cadets. They have to undergo a five-year training stint both at theoretical and practical level. The Soviet vessel which arrived here on Wednesday will set sail for Vladivostok on Sunday. This is the second time that the vessel had called at Madras, the previous visit being in March, 1979. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 10 Oct 81 p 9]

TRIPURA BYELECTION PLANS--Agartala, October 11--The election commission has announced that by-elections for three Tripura assembly seats will be held on November 29. The constituencies are Agartala, the Raima Valley (scheduled tribe reserved) and Bishalgarh. The by-elections will be followed by elections to the tribal areas autonomous district council. Although no date has been announced, the elections to the council are expected to be held by the end of December or the beginning of January next. All the three assembly seats were held by the CPM. The Agartala and the Raima Valley seats fell vacant when their sitting MLAs were elected to the Lok Sabha. The vacancy for the Bishalgarh seat was caused by the murder of the CPM member about a year ago. The contest in the Agartala and Bishalgarh constituencies is expected to be mainly between the CPM and the Congress (I). The Raima Valley constituency, the CPM's main rival will be the Tripura Upajati Yuba Samity. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Oct 81 p 9]

INFLATION RATE DOWN--New Delhi, October 11 (PTI)--After nearly two years, the rate of inflation is no longer a double digit. Mr R. Venkataraman, the finance minister, broke the cheering news to reporters that, on an annual basis, the rate had now come down to 7.8 per cent from as high as 23 per cent in late 1979-80. The new rate was computed on the basis of the wholesale price index in the third week of last month, added Mr R. N. Malhotra, the economic affairs secretary. Other indicators in the economy like coal production, power generation, fertiliser output and railway movement had all maintained upward trends, they said. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 Oct 81 p 1]

IFCI ASSISTANCE RISE--The financial assistance sanctioned by the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for industries during 1980-81 rose to Rs 211 crores, representing an increase of 35% over the previous year. According to official sources, the private sector received more than 60% of the total assistance sanctioned by the IFCI during the year. The shares of the joint sector, public sector and the cooperative sector were 10%, 20% and 9%. Industries with national priority and other selected ones claimed the major share of the assistance. Of the 253 projects assisted during the year, 104 were new ones. In view of an overall improvement in the economy, particularly in the latter half of the fiscal year 1980-81, there was a marked rise in the number of applications for financial assistance. The IFCI, jointly with other financial institutions, processed applications from 259 concerns for a total assistance of Rs 1,319 crores (including soft loan cases). The IFCI was established soon after Independence by an Act of Parliament. Fifty per cent of the share capital of the IFCI is held by the Industrial Development Bank of India, and the rest by nationalized and scheduled banks, other financial institutions and investment trusts. Credit is available for setting up new projects as also for expansion, renovation and modernization of existing ones. In West Bengal, for 10 industrial concerns, including nine in the private sector, financial assistance worth Rs 10 crores was sanctioned by the IFCI during the year under review. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Oct 81 p 3]

NEW BIOGAS PROCESS--New Delhi, Oct 12--The Cotton Technological Research Laboratory (CTRL) in Bombay has developed a technique for producing from cellulosic wastes combustible gas needed for textile processing. On the basis of laboratory tests, the CTRL has put up a small plant which produces 500 litres of biogas daily from 100 kg of willow-dust, which is a cotton waste. Scientists feel that if commercially adopted, this technique could not only lead to considerable economy of expenditure incurred on purchasing liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) by textile mills, but also reduce the mills' dependence on LPG. CTRL's initial trials showed that one kilogram of willow-dust, considered waste by textile mills, soaked in six litres of water and inoculated with cowdung could produce 160 litres of biogas in 60 days. Later it was found that the period could be reduced to half by treating the willow-dust with alkali and allowing it to ferment for three or four days. The scientists designed a plant on the basis of these trials. It was found that the spent slurry could be profitably used as manure as it contains a good amount of nitrogen.--UNI.[Excerpt] [Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Oct 81 p 7]

POWER UNIT PLANS--Hyderabad, October 13 (PTI)--The Union government has decided to entrust the second series of super-thermal power projects to the National Thermal Power Corporation for execution. The power stations proposed to be set up in the second series are at Kahalgaon, Waidhan, Pench, Talcher, Bhadrachalam and Singrauli-II, the chairman and managing director of the NTPC, Mr A. K. Sah, told a news conference here yesterday. The capacity of these stations put together would be of the order of 15,000 Mw. The NTPC was also constructing 400 kv. transmission lines connected with all the projects. The NTPC is presently implementing four projects located at Singrauli, Korba, Ramagundam and Farakka with a total installed capacity of 8,300 Mw. The work on the projects was progressing satisfactorily and the first 200 Mw. unit of Singrauli project was expected to be commissioned in February, he said. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Oct 81 p 9]

RAVI SHANKAR VICE CHANCELLOR--Raipur, October 13--The chancellor of Ravi Shankar University has directed the vice-chancellor, Mr Koshal Prasad, to continue in office till the selection of a new incumbent is made. The vice-chancellor was to retire today. The three-member selection committee nominated by the chancellor has named a panel of three members to succeed the vice-chancellor. They are: Dr B. K. Shrivastava, Dr Rudradhar Sharma and Prof. J. P. Dube. Meanwhile, Mr B. D. Mishra, the senior most member of the university court, has complained to the chancellor that Prof. J. P. Dube is a son-in-law of Mr R. P. Noronha, former chief secretary, and member of the selection committee. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 Oct 81 p 15]

BENARAS VICE CHANCELLOR--Prof Iqbal Narain has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Banaras Hindu University for a period of three years in succession to Dr Hari Narain, reports UNI. He is at present professor of Political Science in Rajasthan University, Jaipur. Formerly he was Vice-Chancellor of Rajasthan University and chairman of the UGC panel on Political Science. An authority on the Panchayati Raj system, Prof Iqbal Narain was a visiting fellow of the Australian National University in 1975-76. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 14 Oct 81 p 5]

BENGAL CPI MEMBERSHIP--Membership of the West Bengal CPI is now over 33,000, a little less than last year's figure. This shows, according to a party source, that the All-India Communist Party, the break-away group led by Mr Dange, has not made any appreciable impact on the membership. The State unit of the CPI is holding conferences of its 750 branches this month to be followed by conferences of local and district units throughout this year. The party will hold its congress at Varanasi early next year. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 81 p 3]

BENGAL POPULATION GROWTH--West Bengal's population is increasing by about 3,000 every day. According to official statistics available in Calcutta, between Tuesday and Wednesday the State's population rose from 55,119,000 to 55,122,000. During the period October 11 to October 25, which is being observed as the National Family Welfare Fortnight, the State's population is expected to register an increase of 38,000. The 1981 census put West Bengal's population at 54,485,000, compared to 44,312,000 in 1971. According to the official statistics, the highest average daily rise in population has been recorded at 6.221 in U.P. The all-India average is said to be 37,440. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 15 Oct 81 p 16]

INDUSTRY MONITORING UNIT--New Delhi, Oct 14--With the commissioning of the Periyar-point radio beacon last month, all-weather, all-day navigational assistance is being provided to ships of all kinds operating within a 400-km radius on the Laccadive-Mangalore-Cochin sector of the western sea board. This beacon, installed at Azhikode in Kerala, is the second in a series of three such beacons in the sector. The first one is functioning at Suratkal, near Mangalore and the third one in Minicoy island, is expected to be operational by the end of this year, according to an official release here. A dozen such beacons have been already operating along the Indian coastline and eight more are expected to be installed during the Sixth Plan. By intercepting the signals from any two beacons, a ship approaching the sector will be able to locate itself within pin-point accuracy. This beacon uses Naatel transmitter NBM 2000 and its power output is 500 watts. It has been installed at a cost of Rs 12 lakhs.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Oct 81 p 9]

NATIONAL FARMERS UNION--New Delhi, Oct 14--A control room is at work in the Ministry of Industry monitoring distress calls on raw materials, coal, power, movement, industrial relations, etc. On receipt of complaints from industrial enterprises in selected fields, it will get in touch with the authorities concerned at the appropriate level and help find a solution. The industries which can utilise the services of the control room are aluminum, including smelting, zinc, copper, dry cells, fertilizers, caustic soda, soda ash, phenol, paper, newsprint and paper products, auto tyres and tubes, commercial vehicles, cement machinery, paper machinery, machine tools, textile machinery, sugar machinery, boilers, railway wagons, castings and forgings and electrical generation, transmission and distribution equipment. Mr S. K. Palhan, Director of Public Relations, Directorate-General of Technical Development, Ministry of Industry, Udyog Bhavan, is in charge of the control room. His telephone numbers are 374571 (office) and 588876 (residence) and telex number is 031-3914. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 15 Oct 81 p 9]

SWISS TECHNOLOGY SOUGHT--London, Oct 15--The Swiss Government sees no impediment in the expansion of Indo-Swiss commercial and industrial collaboration provided specific fields could be identified by Swiss and Indian companies. This was conveyed to the Indian Commerce Secretary, Mr Abid Hussain during his talks in Berne with Mr Paul R. Jolles, Secretary of State for Foreign Economic Affairs of the Swiss Government. During the two day discussions which ended on Wednesday, Mr Hussein stressed India's interest in the transfer of advanced Swiss technology.--PTI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Oct 81 p 7]

CAUVERY WATERS TALKS--Madras, Oct 16--The Tamil Nadu team, led by the Chief Minister, Mr M.G. Ramachandran, which participated in the talks on the Cauvery waters issue at Bangalore, returned here on Friday "satisfied" with the progress of the discussion. The talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere and raised hopes of a satisfactory settlement, said a member of the team. The Bangalore meeting, according to him, was different from several rounds of discussions held earlier, in that both sides, instead of relying too much on statistics, sought to make a realistic approach, and an earnestness to arrive at a speedy settlement was evident. Hopeful Sign: Instead of harping on their known stands and the validity or otherwise of the 1924 agreement, representatives of the two States (Tamil Nadu and Karnataka) discussed the need for providing irrigation to the existing ayacut in the larger interest of the nation for stepping up food production. An assessment of the water requirements of the farmers then followed. "This is a realistic approach and a hopeful sign," he said. The next round of talks will be held in Bangalore early next month. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Oct 81 p 1]

NEW UNIVERSITY OPENS--Anatapur, Oct. 16--Sri Saibaba of Puttaparthi inaugurated the new Sri Satya Sai University at Prasanthinilayam township on Oct 8. At present the junior, degree colleges at Prasanthinilayam and the Sri Satya Sai College of Arts and Science for Women in Anantapur are affiliated to the new university. To start with M.Com., and M. Sc. (Physics) courses are being started in the degree college at Puttaparthi and the next year post-graduate courses in economics, history, politics, Indian culture and music would be started. Prof. V. K. Gokak has taken over as the first vice chancellor. Sri Saibaba thanked Mr S.B. Chavan, Union Education Minister and the U.G.C. Chairman, Mrs Madhuri Sha for their help in starting the new University. Sri Saibaba

performed the "Bhoomi Pooja" and laid the foundation stone for the administrative buildings of the new university. Mr V.K. Narasimhan, Public Relations Officer of the Sri Satya Sai University said efforts were being made to affiliate the Sri Satya Sai Arts and Science College, Whitefield, Bangalore and other Sata Sai colleges and educational institutions in different States to the new university. [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Oct 81 p 9]

SOVIET OIL AID--The Soviet Union will assist the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in reactivating sick oil wells in Gujarat under an agreement signed in New Delhi on Friday reports PTI. Under the contract, which will be valid for two years, the Soviet Union will supply the necessary equipment like rigs and machinery. A Soviet team of specialists will arrive shortly to assist in the project. The contract was signed by Mr V. Zenin of Technoexport Moscow and Mr H.G.T. Woodward Member (onshore) of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. Present at the signing ceremony were visiting Soviet Union Deputy Oil Minister D. Takoyev, and Col S.P. Wahi, chairman of the ONGC. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Oct 81 p 7]

TALWANDI, OTHERS FREED--Mr J.S. Talwandi, president of the Akali Dal (Talwandi) and 38 of his supporters were on Friday released after one month of imprisonment. They had been arrested on 17 September outside Parliament for violating prohibitory orders under Section 144 Cr. P.C. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 17 Oct 81 p 10]

CSO: 7273

U.S. AID EXPECTED TO STIMULATE ECONOMY

Karachi DAWN in English 12 Nov 81 p 12

[Text]

ISLAMABAD, Nov 13: Mr. John L. Kidde, leader of US businessmen's mission, said today that it was hoped that the proposed American economic aid package to Pakistan of over one billion dollars, would stimulate Pakistan's economy and encourage American businessmen to come in to invest here in Pakistan.

Mr. Kidde, who is on a week-long business trip to Pakistan to explore investment avenues and joint ventures potential, however, claimed that the mission was not supposed to serve as a channel for US investment in the private sector. But he recognised the link between the businessmen's interest in investments here and the proposed US economic aid package for Pakistan.

He told a Press conference that during the Mission's talks with Pakistani Government ministers and officials, they understood that although 70 per cent of Pakistani industrial complex was in the public sector, there were commitments by "your Government to move a lot of them out of this sector". He named life insurance business as one of the public sec-

tor ventures which, he claimed, the Government would like to transfer to the private sector because it was not doing well enough in public sector.

About the attitude of American businessmen towards this bias in Government circles for the private sector, Mr. Kidde said "our whole group is for private sector. So, if we have a mission politically, though I hesitate to use this phrase, it is to encourage you to go ahead with these (transfer from the public to the private sector) things which you say you are going to do".

Mr. Kidde said he and other fellow businessmen during their interview with President Zia-ul-Haq found him supportive of the efforts that the US businessmen were making. The response of the President to American investors' interest in enlarging the private sector was very very positive", the leader of US delegation said.

Answering a question, Mr Kidde said, the cushion of risk coverage of the US investment was very important and since the developments in Iran, a lot of analysis and study had been made to in-

sure against risk of nationalisation, convertibility and such other situations. A good part of analysis against risks had been carried out by a US Government agency, called Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), although scope of such risk insurance could not be unlimited.

Mr. Kidde regarded reports in Pakistani Press about the agreed proposed size of US investment as premature and inaccurate. He said that the US businessmen had been offered 30 categories of industrial investment opportunities. They included deep-water fishing and high priority tyre and rubber tube manufactures. The businessmen had also some ideas of their own and they were pursuing a few specific projects. The Chase Manhattan Bank has decided to start business in Pakistan from the coming New Year's day and the Occidental Oil Exploration Venture also had interest in resuming business in Pakistan. He said it was not possible to say how soon their efforts would lead to tangible results, because he pointed out investment procedure was a very complex matter.

FRG TO SUPPLY ARTIFICIAL LIMBS FOR AFGHAN DISABLED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 15 Nov 81 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Nov. 14--The Afghan Refugees Commissionerate with the assistance of the West German Government, is planning to import artificial limbs and joints for the disabled Afghan refugees who have lost their limbs in the Soviet helicopters bombing and shelling on the civilian population in Afghanistan.

Disclosing this, a renowned orthopaedic surgeon, Dr. Manzoor told A.P.P. yesterday that a consolidated list of the artificial limbs and joints had already been prepared and sent to the agency concerned which has approved the import of these items. These included 20 each joints of shoulder, elbow, wrist, hips, knee and ankle besides artificial limbs. The most modern equipment for the surgery would also be imported under the programme. The import of these items would cost about Rs. 1.5 million, he said.

A representative of the German Embassy in Islamabad had already visited Peshawar to meet Dr. Manzoor last month in this connection for processing and materialising the plan.

The Germans would also provide one orthotic and prosthetic specialist, one technician and one physiotherapist along with the equipment.

A separate artificial limbs centre has already been set up in the Khyber Teaching hospital where local-made machinery has been installed. The installation of the imported machinery would further improve the functioning of the centre.

Primarily the plan has been made for the Afghan refugees, but later other disabled persons of the province will also be benefited from the facility.

It may be recalled that for the first time in the history of the country, total successful knee replacement operation was performed in the Khyber Hospital by Dr Manzoor when the knee joint of an 80 years old man who was suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and was unable to move his left knee for the last eight years was replaced by artificial joint. The patient is stated to be in good health and can walk on his new joint.--APP

CSO: 4220/102

AFGHANS HELD ON SUSPICION, INTERROGATED

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 16 Nov 81 p 3

[Text]

Nine Afghans, suspected to be members of Al-Zulfiqar organisation, who infiltrated into the city through Kandhar disguised as Afghan Mujahideen, were arrested by the police in Saddar area, it was reported yesterday.

The police also seized six revolvers (foreign made) and 250 cartridges from their possession.

The accused were identified as Abdul Aziz, son of Dad Mohammad, Abdul Ghafar, son of Gul Mohammad, Saeed Mohammad, son of Agha Mohammad, Mohammad Rahim son of Mohammad Rasool, Gul Mohammad son of Nusratullah, Ahmed son of Lal Mohammad, Habibullah, son of Ahmedullah, Abdul Ghayas, son of Abdul Wadood, Wabullah, son of Dost

Mohammad.

The accused were sitting on the lawns of the Jehangir Park when a police party, headed by Naim Bahadur, SHO Preedy police station, acting on a tip off, rounded them up.

Their search also led, besides the ammunition to the recovery of forged Afghan documents.

When interrogated the accused said that they were suffering from injuries, and they had come here for medical treatment and were staying in an inn, Al-Noor in the Napier Road area.

However, after intense interrogation they were to be suspected to be members of the Al-Zulfiqar organisation based in Afghanistan and had infiltrated into the country for ulterior political motive, the police sources said.

CSO: 4220/102

JOINT INVESTMENT BANK WITH U.S. CONSIDERED

Karachi DAWN in English 15 Nov 81 pp 1, 12

[Text]

LAHORE, Nov. 14: A joint Pakistan-United States investment bank is likely to be established to facilitate and syndicate the capital inflow for Pakistan's economic development.

This was stated this afternoon by Mr John Kidde, President of the United States-Pakistan Economic Council and leader of the 25-member group of US private entrepreneurs in an airport interview on arrival here for a brief visit to the provincial metropoljs.

Mr Kidde reiterated his earlier statement that the general investment climate in Pakistan had now greatly improved, and said that this morning's meeting between his delegation and Pakistani industrialists and Government officials was extremely informative.

He said that already some of the well-known United States companies, including those dealing in insurance, agricultural products, were planning to open their offices in Pakistan.

The businessmen now visiting Pakistan were also discussing the possibilities of joint venture in the field of agro-based industries, fuel and manufacture of tyres and tractors.

He said the United States Private Investment Corporation, a Government agency which encouraged private investment in friendly countries, and whose President, Mr Gray Nalen, was a member of the 25-member group now visiting Pakistan, would also establish its office here to facilitate investment in Pakistan's industrial development.

The US businessmen's delegation was received at the airport by the officials of the provincial Industries Department and Trading Corporation of Pakistan. The Federal Minister for Industries, Mr Elahi Bakhsh Soomro; and the Federal Secretary Industries; accompanied the delegation in the special plane which brought them here.

Later speaking at a reception hosted in honour of the delegation by the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr Kidde said that the Economic Council was only a-year-old and yet it seemed to have developed into a good idea.

He said 20 to 25 proposals out of the 30 priorities set forth by the Pakistan's side might become feasible in due course.—APP.

DAWN LAHORE BUREAU
ADDS: A substantial amount of investment in private sector in the friendly developing countries around the world, including Pakistan, is the cornerstone of the foreign policy of the American President. Mr. Ronald Reagan, for which ways and means are being evolved on a priority basis.

An in-depth study to prepare feasibility report to determine the areas of cooperation in the field of private investment between the United States and Pakistan entrepreneurs is already in the process.

These views were expressed here today by the members of high-level US-Pakistan Economic Council mission at a meeting with the local private investors at the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The leader of the delegation, Mr Kidde, however, made it clear that the Pakistani entrepreneurs should not attach any immediate and high expectations to the visit of this economic mission to Pakistan. To better understand the investment practicabilities and to reach a positive conclusion, it might take a period from five to 10 years, he added.

The purpose of the visit of the Council mission, Mr Kidde said, was, in fact, to locate the vistas of closer economic cooperation with the private entrepreneurs. For this purpose, he said, the United States Administration had sent four officials to Pakistan as member of the delegation. Everything possible would be done for developing closer economic and investment ties with the Pakistani entrepreneurs.

Agencies add: Director of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation of the United States, Mr. Craig Nalen said that for the businessmen of the United States, Pakistan was an unknown territory and Japan, South Korea and Hong Kong were naturally better known in the United States. He said the

visit of the delegation was a good augury and was an earnest effort for the capital inflow from the United States.

Federal Industries Minister Elahi Bakhsh Soomro, addressing the meeting, said that the beginning of a new era of friendship and cooperation between the traders, businessmen and industrialists of Pakistan and the US was excellent.

He said the discussions and the negotiations held between the members of the Chamber and the visiting guests were useful.

Earlier, the President of the Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mian Shahzada Alam Monnoo, in his welcome address, said that the investment climate in Pakistan was very good as the present administration had taken positive steps to restore the confidence of the private sector.

He said the annual private investment had gone up from 3.06 per cent in 1973-74 to 23.6 per cent in 1979-80. Pakistan's GDP had gone up from Rs 66.88 billion to Rs 229.96 billion in 1979-80. The exports had also gone up from 800 million US dollars in 1972-73 to 2.96 billion US dollars, he added.

CSO: 4220/102

BRIEFS

'SUBVERSIVE' GROUPS UNEARTHED--Lahore, Nov 14--Several groups indulging in the subversive activities, have been unearthed by the police, the Inspector-General of Police, Punjab, disclosed while talking to newsmen in Fountain House here this afternoon. These groups have been detected on the clues given by the persons suspected to be involved in the murder of Chaudhry Zahur Elahi. "Still, several groups remain untraced and efforts are being made to discover them," he added. About the progress in the apprehension of culprits involved in the murder of Chaudry Zahur Elahi, he said only one genuine culprit had been arrested and three others are being looked for. He reiterated that all the accused have a link with the clandestine and subversive organisation "Al-Zulfikar." He did not agree with the suggestion that they had fled the country. Whenever the remaining accused are hauled up, the details of their activities would be made public, he added.--PPI [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 15 Nov 81 p 1]

IMPORT OF PULSES--Lahore--Nov 15--President Zia-ul-Haq today said the Government had allowed the import of 29,000 tons of pulses to overcome the present shortage for which letter of Credit for Rs. 220 million had been opened. He said that for the last two years the country was not having a good crop of pulses and added this year too, the situation was not satisfactory particularly in respect of gram. He pointed out that the Government had made arrangements to introduce soyabean as a pulse which was good in taste and had all the food value.--APP [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 16 Nov 81 p 10]

CSO: 4220/102

ADDITIONAL TEST SCHEDULED FOR SOUTH GALOC-1 OIL WELL

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 2 Nov 81 pp 1, 14

[Article by Ray S. Enano]

[Text]

One more test is scheduled to be made this week on the South Galoc-1 well, site of the latest oil find in the country, the Ministry of Energy announced yesterday.

The test, according to the ministry, will be conducted by Philippine Cities Service, Inc., to determine the stabilized flow rate of the well which initially yielded 400 barrels of oil per day during the first drill stem test (DST).

The find was the 13th since 1976 when an oil strike was first recorded in the Nido oilfield.

South Galoc-1 well also produced gas in the first test and, according to the ministry, the gas flow is similar to the ones discovered in the San Antonio well in Isabela and the Sam-

paguita well in offshore Palawan.

South Galoc-1 well lies 5.1 kilometers from the north Galoc well where an oil strike was recorded last June. The first Galoc discovery recorded a flow rate of 1,600 barrels of oil per day.

This week's test will determine if the oil discovered is of commercial quantity, or if the cost of developing the oilfield is economical in relation to the expected oil yield.

Previous report made by the Ministry of Energy indicated that more gas than oil has been found in South Galoc.

The initial tests showed that the well yielded a flow rate of 3.7 million cubic meters of gas per day and 280 barrels of gas condensate per day.

Like the first Galoc strike, South Galoc belongs to a sandstone

structure which means oil can easily flow due to the formation's permeability and porosity.

Previous oil discoveries belong to limestone or reefal structures where oil is hard to extract.

South Galoc reached a total depth of 8,576 feet and succeeding tests will be done on the shallower part of the well as oil signs have been likewise encountered on the early part of the drilling.

Ministry officials said successive tests will show whether the oil found in South Galoc belongs to the same quality as in the first Galoc strike.

Should South Galoc yield the same oil officials said, it would mean that the two wells are in the same oil structure.

This, in turn, would mean that the oil reservoir is larger than expected since the two wells are 5.1 kilometers from each other.

COMMERCIAL LOAN CEILING OF \$1.7 BILLION PLANNED FOR 1982

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 3 Nov 81 p 21

[Text]

The Philippines plans to seek a \$1.7 billion ceiling in new commercial loans next year, about the same level as this year, to maintain the programmed foreign borrowing requirements of the government's development program, a senior government official said.

Commercial loans of one- to 12-year maturity are governed by the ceiling imposed by the International Monetary Fund on the Philippines under the conditions imposed by the standby credit agreement.

No increase is foreseen from this year's ceiling of \$1.7 billion in view of the slack in loan availments this year on account of the

depressed need for commercial loans.

However, government officials foresee a strong loan demand this year both from the government and the private sector because of the projected recovery in investment and business activity.

Out of the \$1.7 billion loan ceiling available this year, only about \$1.0 billion was availed of as the economic recession dampened new business activity and the high interest rates abroad discouraged borrowers.

Some \$350 million were raised by the Central Bank for the consolidated foreign borrowing requirements. Other commercial bor-

rowings of the government sector was estimated at \$300 million. The private sector accounted for the balance.

Another reason for the high amount of un-availed loan from the ceiling was the fact that a good number of private borrowers were able to raise credits from the Eurodollar market of more than 12-year maturity, which made them not chargeable against the ceiling.

Next year, however, the authorities wanted to maintain the ceiling at \$1.7 billion because of the requirements of the industrial projects, whose preparation was somewhat delayed this year.

PHILIPPINES

NEW NATIONAL COCONUT POLICY TO BE DRAWN UP

HK140658 Baguio Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation in English 0400 GMT
14 Nov 81

[Excerpt] The newly-formed blue ribbon committee of the coconut industry starts meeting with coconut sectors next week to draw up a new national coconut policy. Members of the 11-man committee, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Jose Rono, were named by President Marcos yesterday. Deputy Premier Rono said he has already scheduled meetings with the sectors of the coconut industry to speed up the rationalization of the industry, on which about 6 million Filipinos depend directly for their living.

Meanwhile assemblyman (Cesar Vilarival), who is the chairman of the subcommittee on coconut industry, is confident that solutions to the long-standing problems of the industry are in sight. He said the setting up of floor prices on copra will go a long way in protecting the coconut farmers.

The Coconut Federation of the Philippines, or COCOFED, welcomed the urgent moves of the government to protect the coconut farmers. COCOFED officials said the appeal of President Marcos to coconut oil exporters to buy copra at international rates is a big help. COCOFED's President (Maria Clara Roblega) said that the federation is right now buying copra for 1.50 to 2 pesos per kilos, not far from the international rates. (Roblega) said that with the support of the government given to the coconut industry, COCOFED hopes to expand its buying stations in 15 provinces to eventually cover all the provinces in the country. She assured that COCOFED would continue to support social and economic programs for coconut farmers.

CSO: 4220/105

PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINE RADIO ON PROBLEMS OF COCONUT INDUSTRY

HK160040 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2330 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] President Marcos has once again timely stepped in to arrest the worsening row between warring groups in the country's coconut industry. The president called on the divided factions in the coconut industry to stop quarrelling and instead attend to the problems of the country's more than 1 million coconut farmers. This first intervention by the president seized the situation and prevented it from growing out of proportion, and saved the plight of the victims caught in the cross-fire of contending groups--the small farmers who have failed to get reasonable prices for their copra.

The president's order to union and other exporters of coconut oil and other copra by-products to agree on a reasonable copra buying price was a stinging rebuke to these groups who, in their frenzied pursuit of profit, forget that the small farmers who labored and toiled in silence to raise copra crops are entitled to get the best price for their products. This move, plus the initiative taken by the president in creating a blue ribbon committee to make an in-depth study of the problems of the coconut industry, might just as well improve the faulty coconut trading system in the country and give small farmers a lift in their present economic plight.

Meanwhile, warring groups in the coconut sector should forget their differences and heed the appeal of the president, unless they want to be rebuked next time with an iron hand. Exporters and other traders should likewise look beyond their own profit-oriented motive and see the plight of the struggling coconut and copra farmers.

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BRIEFS

HELP FOR COCONUT FARMERS--President Marcos has taken another step to help the beleaguered coconut farmers now reeling from a slump in coconut prices. Aside from partially restoring the coconut levy, the president sought to fetch a better buying price of copra. Appealing to coconut oil exporters, the president urged that the local buying price be brought on par with the international rate of 25 U.S. cents per pound. The request was directed at major copra buyers and exporters like the (Intetro Ludu) Union and the United Coconut Millers. The president asked the private exporters to buy from the farmers at international prices, minus the sometimes controversial legal commission, transportation, housing and the like. The president also directed exporters to decide on a reasonable price and to publish that price for the guidance of farmers. This will also help in effectively monitoring the taxes of agents, middlemen and brokers, he added. For a broader perspective of the problems of the coconut industry, the president directed local government Minister Jose Rono to conduct a study of the situation for remedial measures. At the Batsang Pambansa, the steering committee is poised to decide on several resolutions asking for an inquiry into the performance of certain coconut organizations. The purpose is to see if the coconut farmers are being short-changed. [Text] [HK120437 Baguio Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation in English 0400 GMT 12 Nov 81]

CLARK PILFERERS ARRESTED--Government agents have arrested 12 persons allegedly involved in the pilferage of plane spare parts at Clark Air base. They were arrested by combined elements of the presidential security command and the Office of Special Investigation at Clark Air Base. The group, which has been operating for the last 5 years, reportedly smuggled the spare parts and sold them in Hong Kong. The agents recovered some 31 million pesos worth of stolen plane parts. [Text] [HK150102 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2330 GMT 14 Nov 81]

MILITARY PARTS SYNDICATE SMASHED--Philippines authorities have broken up an international syndicate selling spare parts that are stolen from U.S. and Philippine military bases in the country. They are sold to communist countries, according to the armed forces chief, General Fabian Ver. In an announcement, he identified three Hong Kong-based American nationals as alleged ringleaders of the gang, which he said had stolen more than \$12.5 million worth of aircraft parts in the past 5 years. He gave their names as John Wright, James Smith, and Jeff Pitt, but gave no details about their personal backgrounds or their present whereabouts, and the U.S. Embassy authorities could not be reached for comment. [Text] [HK200052 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0030 GMT 20 Nov 81]

STOLEN PLAN PARTS SYNDICATE INVESTIGATIONS--Authorities are now looking into the possible connivance or links of some Philippine Airlines personnel in the pilferage of airplane spare parts. The pilferage is reportedly operated by an international syndicate. The pilfered parts, made for C-130 planes, are sold to countries which cannot buy them from the United States because of their anti-American policies. The investigation is being conducted by the presidential security command. [Text] [HK230428 Baguio Mountain Province Broadcasting Corporation in English 0400 GMT 23 Nov 81]

OVERSEAS WORKERS UNIONS--A Filipino labor leader has proposed that Filipino overseas abroad should first join organized labor unions in the Philippines before their employment contracts are approved by the government. The secretary-general of the Trade Unions of the Philippines and allied services said this will protect Philippine workers abroad and also trade unionism in the country. He said labor leaders from Iraq, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria, Libya and Algeria have assured him of assistance in case of labor problems of Filipinos working in the Middle East. Such problems range from contract substitution to poor working conditions. [Text] [HK130207 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0130 GMT 13 Nov 81]

ILLEGAL LABOR RECRUITMENT--Here in the Philippines, 10 assemblymen have asked the Batasan labor committee to probe illegal recruitment of Filipino workers in the Middle East and Japan. The 10 assemblymen filed resolution 357 seeking investigation on the alleged illegal worker recruitment and exploitation. The assemblymen, led by Felicidad Santos, cited newspaper reports that Filipino workers in some Middle East countries are working under deplorable conditions, and he explained that it is the duty of the government to protect Filipino workers and to safeguard their rights and dignity as human beings. [Text] [HK140111 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 0300 GMT 14 Nov 81]

PHILIPPINE-SAUDI ARABIAN TIES--President Marcos has hailed the growing friendly relations between the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. In his meeting yesterday with visiting (?Mayor) (Muhammad Said al-Farsi), the president expressed hope this relation would continue to grow stronger. He cited the effort of Saudi Arabian Ambassador Fawzi 'Abd al-Majid Shabukshi in promoting friendly ties between the two countries. [Text] [HK200050 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2330 GMT 19 Nov 81]

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